

Dear Colleague

**SRHE PGNR Annual Conference  
Challenging Higher Education: Newer researchers' perspectives  
7 December 2009**

**Celtic Manor Resort, Coldra Woods, The Usk Valley, Newport, South Wales, UK**

I am pleased to write with information for the above event which covers joining instructions and provides you with pre event information to help you plan your Conference.

Access to the full conference programme, the timetable of presentations, the abstracts and all venue details and directions will be on the website week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at this hyperlink: <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/conference2009>

Some of you will be attending both the PGNR conference and the three day conference (8 – 10 December) event that follows. The information here relates solely to the PGNR Conference; you will have received conference information on the latter event separately.

Please note that Registration and the opportunity to network with colleagues will run from 10am to 11am with the formal programme starting promptly at 11am. On arrival at the hotel please go to the Hotel Reception and ask for the Beaumaris Suite, level C2.

#### **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

##### **Travel**

The Celtic Manor Resort is set in 1400 acres of panoramic parkland in the beautiful Usk Valley, just off the M4 Motorway(exit at J24), only 90 minutes from London Heathrow, 45 minutes from Bristol and Cardiff-Wales International Airport and 5 minutes from the Severn Bridge. We are located close to inter city rail services at Newport, with direct trains to Cardiff, London Paddington, and Birmingham.

##### **From the airports:**

##### **Heathrow**

Take the Heathrow Express Train to **Paddington Station**. From Paddington take the train to **Newport Gwent**.

##### **Cardiff**

Either takes the train from **Cardiff Central Station** to **Newport Gwent Station** or take a taxi from **Cardiff airport** to **Celtic Manor**, We have negotiated a taxi fare from **Cardiff airport** to **Celtic Manor** at a cost of £48. To pre- book visit their website: <http://www.cardiff-airport-taxis.co.uk> and quote "SRHE conference"

##### **By Train**

There are taxis from **Newport Gwent station** to **Celtic Manor Resort**. This is a 15 minute journey and the fare should be around £10.00. To pre book Dragon Taxis + 44 (0)1633 216216

##### **By Car**

For those arriving by car, exit the M4 Motorway at Junction 24 (the resort is clearly visible from here).There is a large car park at the Resort; there is no need to reserve a parking space and it is free a charge.

Those of you who have booked accommodation for the 7<sup>th</sup> and are arriving by car you are kindly

requested to leave your luggage in the car until you check in to your room.

For more information on travel options please see the Celtic Manor Resort website.

<http://www.celtic-manor.com/location.aspx>

### **Arrival Prior to the formal start of conference**

For delegates arriving before Monday 7th December, please check in on arrival at the Celtic Manor Resort Reception desk. Your bedroom will be reserved in your name. If you wish to have a meal at the Resort there are a number of excellent options on site. To reserve a table for dinner on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> you may reserve online at [http://www.celtic-manor.com/Restaurants and Bars.aspx](http://www.celtic-manor.com/Restaurants_and_Bars.aspx). You can pay for your meal by credit card or pay against your room number. Delegates are responsible for payment for all extras at the Resort.

### **Delegates arriving on the 7<sup>th</sup>**

If you are arriving on the day please give yourself as much time as possible to arrive at the venue to ensure that you can take full advantage of the day particularly the networking opportunity afforded during registration and refreshments to meet with colleagues and plan your day.

If you have booked accommodation for the 7<sup>th</sup> you will be able to check into your room from 4pm. Luggage can be securely stored with the Concierge at the Hotel reception desk until your room is available.

### **Hotel Spa and Leisure facilities**

The Resort is known for its excellent Health and Spa club facilities. They are free of charge to delegates and accompanying persons. Accompanying persons who wish to play golf can book online at [www.celtic-manor.com/golf.aspx](http://www.celtic-manor.com/golf.aspx)

## **PROGRAMME**

### **Conference Registration 10am to 11am – Beaumaris Suite Level C2**

During the Registration period we will be posting delegates' "... would like to meet ..." cards on notice boards in the refreshments area. If you would like to participate please send details noting your name, your institution, your presentation title (if applicable) and details of your research interests and contacts you would like to make to [bblake@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:bblake@srhe.ac.uk). During the drinks reception the cards will be put into a prize draw. You will be able to post these on arrival if we don't receive them before but it would be helpful to have them in advance. We hope that this will prove a fun way of seeking out and meeting colleagues throughout the day who have similar research interests to your own, - and who knows this may lead to future collaborative research!

### **WELCOME**

The conference formally opens promptly at 11.00hrs with a welcome from the Chair of Conference Dr Arwen Raddon, and the Director of the Society, Helen Perkins. The Keynote Address from Dr Catherine Manathunga will start at 11.15am.

### **Conferences Closes:**

At 7.15pm following the Closing Remarks, Drinks Reception and Prize Draw (6.15pm to 7.15pm) we hope that you will be able to join Chair of conference, Dr Arwen Raddon, and the Newer Researchers Network convenors for supper where the networking will continue. This will be held in one of the resort restaurants. If you are interested in joining the team for supper there will be a contact identified on the day where you can add your name to the list. Unfortunately supper is not included in the conference fee.

**Attached to this email you will find:**

- The Conference Programme "At a Glance" noting all the key areas of the Programme including presentation sessions

We look forward to seeing you at this event and hope that between now and the conference you will find that you have all the information you need to ensure that you have a productive and enjoyable time at conference this year.

Kind regards

**Barbara Blake**

**PGNR Conference Coordinator**