

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 5 May 2009

Welcome to the fortnightly Fellowship newsletter, a regular insight into the various activities, projects and events that are happening throughout the RSA Fellowship network.

News and Events



Fellows' project: Bilingualism Matters

A project by Antonella Sorace FRSA looks at bilingualism in children and the positive effects and advantages it has. Bilingualism Matters is a new initiative that aims to raise awareness among families, educators, and policymakers. RSA Fellows with ideas and expertise are encouraged to get in touch. For more information and to find out how, [read more](#).



OpenDinner in Liverpool

Fellows in Liverpool came together in December to discuss local enterprise. The event was hosted by Kevin Donovan FRSA. Following on from the success of the first Liverpool OpenDinner in December, RSA Fellows are invited to the next event on 18 May. Under discussion will be the impact of Liverpool being the 2008 Capital of Culture. For further information and to book, [read more](#).



Fellows in Yorkshire: Call to action

Fellows in Yorkshire are asking what they can do to create resilient communities in a post-recession age, following a trip to a local community centre, Cottingley Cornerstone Centre. John Bale FRSA talks about the experience and asks for Fellows to contact him to get involved with taking ideas further. To get involved, [read more](#).



The Arnolfini, Education and the RSA

In Bristol, the city network and other discussions have been taking place around involvement in the arts and how barriers can be broken down to encourage more interaction. The RSA has been talking to the Arnolfini and working in partnership to develop and address these ideas. To see how you can get involved, [read more](#).



Information on Fellowship Council

During April we announced an exciting innovation in the RSA's governance structure - the election and implementation of a **Fellowship Council**. This representative body will allow for a more flexible and transparent framework to support Fellows' engagement with the RSA and improve communication between the organisation and its membership, working on projects such as the new Fellows' Charter.

We're looking for a whole range of skills, expertise and interests to compose this Council in tune with the diversity of the Fellowship. To find out more on how you can nominate yourself for election or to see who to go to with any questions, please take a look at the [Fellowship Council on the RSA website](#).

Fellow's Profile



RSA Fellow, **Alan Boldon** has spent the last 20 years working on interdisciplinary projects as an artist, curator and project manager. He joined the Arnolfini Gallery as Head of Research & Development. This project is expected to fundamentally overhaul research methods and partnership between the arts and sciences as well as offering new insights into ways that artists can contribute to urban renewal and creative clusters. Here he talks about his reasons for joining the RSA and the importance of building partnerships:

"My job is to re-conceptualise and then develop Arnolfini into a research centre focused on arts, ecology and urban wellbeing, and to forge the partnerships that can support and help deliver this. We aim to make Arnolfini the blueprint for comparable organisations.

North

All Fellows are invited to the upcoming Glasgow City Network which takes place on the second Tuesday of each month – it is an informal opportunity for Fellows to meet each other and build relationships across a diverse range of professions and interests.

The next get together will take place on Tuesday 12 May 5pm – 7pm, at **Cafe Gandolfi** 64 Albion Street, Glasgow. [Book now to join us](#).

South

On 13 May in an RSA lecture in association with the Fulbright Commission, Nigel Thrift will talk about Higher Education in the UK in 'We can't go on like this: why British higher education must change'. He will discuss the need for change in the UK to mirror the shifts taking place worldwide.

Don't forget that if you cannot be at an event in person you can always [listen live](#) to the event. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events and watch filmed events on [RSA Vision](#).

East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Further information about activities in the area will be coming soon. In the meantime please contact [Michael Devlin](#) with any questions.

West

This month sees the launch of a **Cornwall Network**. Monday 11 May: Cornwall Network, One Eyed Cat, Truro 6-8pm.

Due to the geographic challenges of living in and getting around the county, the Network will work on a rotational basis. The first event is going to be in Truro

I strongly connect with the vision of the RSA and particularly the work of the Arts and Ecology centre. The Arts can play a major role in highlighting the unprecedented environmental challenges that are affecting the world in which we live. As an Arts practitioner, I believe that the creative industry can act as a catalyst and as a force for change.

By building meaningful connections between organisations and individuals, [organisations] can do more together than they could separately. If we, as Fellows, are going to be successful in removing barriers to social progress then it is only going to be achieved through close collaboration, partnership and commitment to a shared vision.

Recently I learnt about a remarkable project starting up called **New Deal of the Mind**. It is being led by Martin Bright and is looking at how we can provide meaningful work for young people in a time of recession. The work experience, internships, arts and ecology apprenticeships and youth leadership programmes I am developing for Arnolfini may well become part of this. It is using Roosevelt's New Deal project to inspire action and innovation."

On connecting with another Fellow: "I spoke with John Steers of the National Society for Education in Art and Design who offered to help develop a programme at Arnolfini. We talked about the need for school teachers to remain in touch/reconnect with their arts practice. At the start of my career I did a lot of arts projects with young people. They often went quite swiftly into deeper areas of creativity than I had thus far experienced. I felt that I was peddling creativity without having found out what it was. I went back to college to do a post-grad painting course. Painting continues to inform everything I do whether it is arts and cultural policy, teaching and curriculum development, curating performance work or working on the energy issues of buildings and city blocks."

And finally...

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the newsletter. We want this to work for you so please let us know your thoughts about the content and format.

You can help shape the future of the RSA and develop Fellowship networks.

Nominate a Fellow

Fellows are passionate about joining forces to achieve positive change. Do you know more like minded people – optimistic, innovative and engaged – who can help us build a better society together? Please **nominate them** to join! You will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form.

Any news?

Communicating the activities of the Fellowship is the first step to creating the Fellowship network. As an RSA Fellow if there is anything you are doing in your area which other Fellows should know about and can get involved in, **please contact us**.

We will only include items which relate to the goals of the RSA, where Fellows can get actively involved and any editorial decisions will be final.

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with future events in development for the Eden Project and St Ives. More details will follow as soon as they are confirmed.

For further information about activities in the region please contact **Chris Luffingham**.

International

USA

A Fellows event was held in Newport, RI, on April 24, hosted by Ron Fleming, a long-time Fellow and founder of the **The Townscape Institute**, a not-for-profit public interest planning organization. Discussion included place meaning, design, conservation, sustainability and environment. The group plans regular meetings in the future.

US Fellowship meetings for May are scheduled in Baltimore, New Haven, Washington DC, and New York. Many Fellows are opening their own events to the Fellowship across the country, including a speaking tour by Lord Patten and conferences on Green Transportation, CSR and Ethics, and Radical Office Design. Fellows travelling in the US are welcome at any US meeting or event.

Full details of these announcements can be found at the **American Coffee House** or contact **Lynn Broadbent**, US Fellowship Director, for more information.

Australia

On Saturday 9 May with the topic of 'Sustainability begins at home' is a meeting of Fellows at The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169-171 Castlereagh St, Sydney. Taking place from 2pm to 4.30pm Fellows are invited to attend and network. Please contact **Paul Vittles** for more information and to book.