

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 13 July 2009

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News and Events



The Big Lunch!

The Big Lunch is a simple idea with a big heart - bringing neighbours and communities closer in a shared public place to sit down and eat together.

Initiated by Fellow [Tim Smit](#) and taking place on **Sunday 19 July**, the idea emphasises the importance of communities and this engagement is at the heart of everything the RSA stands for. If you want to join a **Big Lunch event** in the UK or find out what is taking place in your area, [read more](#).



Health and Social Care Fellows' Network

What constitutes meaningful and genuine patient and public involvement (PPI)?

In the South West of England, an active network and project has been created by a group of Fellows to investigate public participation and democratic engagement in health and social care. In partnership with the [Peninsula Medical School](#) at Exeter University, the network's aim is to design, seek funding for and undertake research; if you want to find out more about this group, [read more](#).



The Natural Change Project

For the past six months, a diverse set of influential professionals, which included four FRSA's, have been participating in WWF's internationally innovative **Natural Change Project** to create sustainable behaviour and attitude change. For more information on this inspiring project, [read more](#).



Fellowship Council Elections - from Gerry Acher

I am personally thrilled at the high proportion of voting for the recent RSA Fellowship Council elections. I look forward to sharing the results of Council

Elections at the end of July once the Trustee Board have met to approve the nominations and election process.

I believe this is a major shift in the relationship between the RSA and the Fellowship and hails a new era of participation and involvement.

Finally, the contribution and engagement by both Candidates and Fellows during the election period was extremely high; 14.5% of the Fellowship participated in the Election in comparison to 4% for previous RSA Trustee Elections, I hope you agree that this is a strong indication of the positive direction in which the Fellowship is headed.

Gerry Acher FRSA, Deputy Chair, RSA



Fellow's Profile

Peter Hopton explains why he joined the Fellowship and about his search to reduce the carbon footprint of IT goods:

I'm an "eco-geek", my personal goal is to reduce the carbon footprint of technology.

You see, technology can be an effective enabler of carbon emission reduction. Technology such as video conferencing, telecoms, home working, electronic media and social media can all enable the reduction of CO2 emissions in buildings and transport. The problem, which I am trying to solve is that IT has a significant carbon footprint itself. One server in a data centre has a similar operational carbon footprint to a range rover sport and IT worldwide is responsible for similar annual emissions as

North

A Fellows' networking event is taking place in Newcastle on Wednesday 15 July.

The **Newcastle Encounter** is an opportunity to build relationships and discuss possible projects, you can see further information about these meetings and other activities on the [Virtual Coffee House site](#).

For any further queries about this region please contact [Judith Friedman](#).

South

RSA

Join our panel of speakers at RSA lecture, **All-Consuming** where they will be assessing the relative perils and merits of our society's 'all consuming' obsession. The lecture starts at 6.00pm on Thursday 16 July.

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](#).

You can also follow RSA Events on [Twitter](#).

For further information about activities in the South East and South Central region please contact [Olivia Rainford](#).

East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Please contact [Clare Reilly](#) with any questions.

Wales/West

City networks will be taking place in Cheltenham and Bristol this month.

On 16 July make your way to Monty's Bar and Brasserie.

workload is responsible for annual emissions as commercial airlines 4 times over.

I'm the Chief Executive and core founder of VeryPC, and I'd like to think that our organisation has shown that IT equipment can have a significantly lower carbon footprint without sacrificing performance. VeryPC make IT equipment, with the "Made in Sheffield" hallmark, servers and desktops shown to reduce overall energy consumption by 60% when substituted for other IT equipment.

I started out with two friends running a consultancy, we lobbied the large IT companies for change, but to no avail – all we got back was lip service towards our green agenda. So in February 2004 we founded VeryPC where we started doing ourselves what could be done to make IT equipment more energy efficient and have a lower embedded carbon footprint.

[On joining the RSA] When I received a nomination letter on my desk I investigated the Society and I was impressed at the ethos and number of people putting a common voice to some of the key issues I'm passionate about. I'm not an arty type – but a geek; I am a manufacturer and a Freeman of the city of Sheffield – I'm also a scientist at heart.

I'd employ the better use of technology to bring power and knowledge to the voting population. The government's current attempts to use technology are admirable, but fall far short of the mark set by other countries – and even further short of what is possible. The recent events in Iran have shown the power of technology as a way of bringing people together to try and bring positive change. Using technology, public information could be open and easily available to everyone in a standard format. Companies, NGOs and charities could take this information and make useful public statistical data.

Online referendums could be commonplace, and online forums an easy way to provide information back to our decision makers in parliament. Imagine it, tweeting at your MP to get your voice heard? I'd also like to help technophobes, which in my experience, as the name suggests is almost always a fear of technology that is the barrier – rather than the inability to use it. Getting over this fear can open up a whole new world to these people.

[On connecting with another Fellow] On many occasions I've spoken with Rob Holdway – Rob was part of the WEEE man project – which was an RSA project using old waste electronics to make a piece of art. Rob has lots of useful knowledge in the fields of embedded carbon and recyclability which we're always looking to improve in our products.

If you know any inspiring Fellows who would be suitable for a profile please [contact us](#) and let us know their name and details.



Who to Contact at the RSA

To find out exactly which staff member you should contact at the RSA please see the [contacts page](#) on the RSA website.

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.

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. Any decisions will be at

Cheltenham from 6.30pm. On 21 July, the city network will start at 6.30pm, Bordeaux Quay, Bristol. These meetings provide Fellows' an opportunity to meet, discuss ideas, and network.

For activities in the region please contact [Chris Luffingham](#) or see [here](#) for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

Come along to the Glasgow city network on Tuesday 14 July. We will be there from 5.00pm-7.00pm at Cafe Gandolfi, 64 Albion Street. Feel free to drop in and out as you can make it.

For any further information the [newsletter for Scotland](#) can be found on the regional web pages. Please [email](#) Judith Friedman with any queries about regional activities.

International

USA

[Save the dates](#) for the RSA Fellowship team to visit the US in September.

Fellows are invited to a [Washington DC Fellows' meeting](#) on July 22 at 12.30pm taking place at the Policy Studies Organization. Further details are available on [American Coffee House](#).

Online discussions and details of US meetings are updated frequently on the [American Coffee House](#). Fellows traveling to the US are welcome to participate online and in person and can receive email event announcements on request. Please contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director, for more information.

Australia

Further to the informal networking meeting held in May, regular bi-monthly 'City Networks' meetings will now be run in **Melbourne** on the 3rd Wednesday of alternate months i.e. July, September, November etc. The next meeting will be held in the library at Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton at 6.30pm, **Wednesday 15 July**.

Should you have any queries about the network or wish to make contact with other Fellows in Australia, please contact [Leigh-anne Shannon](#).

the editor's discretion.

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