

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 19 October 2009

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News and Events



AGM Celebrations

Last week's AGM celebrations brought the Fellowship together to mark the **255th AGM**, the first meeting of the new **Fellowship Council**, and the launch of the **Fellowship Exhibition**. This was an exciting day for Fellows worldwide!



Exhibition: Fellowship Charter

This exhibition celebrates past and present achievements of the RSA and its Fellows. At the same time it challenges us to focus on the future, and the potential of Fellows and the Fellowship to become a significant force for social progress. At the heart of the exhibition is the proposed text for the new Fellowship Charter, and its three key elements – Inspire, Support, Enable.

The Charter outlines the shared values and aims of the RSA and its Fellowship. It was proposed by Fellows, and is aligned to the Society's founding documents. Our ambition is that the RSA and its Fellows will be recognised by the positive impact we have on the world. So, this exhibition is designed to evolve over time as we add more examples of Fellows, projects and ideas. ***In order to do this, we need your help.***

How have you been inspired, enabled or supported as a Fellow, and what will you do to inspire, enable or support others? What does the future of the Fellowship look like? Does the proposed text for the Charter support our ambition?

[View the Charter exhibition and add a comment.](#)

The Exhibition is currently on the ground floor of the House and online. Your comments on the Charter will be considered by the Fellowship Council in **December 2009** and the Trustee Board in **January 2010**. If you have any questions, please email [Laura Billings](#).



AGM Seminars

More than 130 Fellows registered to participate in the Projects sessions that were held throughout the AGM day. These were intended as a way to make RSA Projects more accessible, and get more Fellows involved in their development.

Jonathan from Connected Communities teamed up with Will from Arts and Ecology to discuss social capital and community gardens. To read more and have the opportunity to comment [see Jonathan's summary](#) and [Will's blog post](#). Rebecca led a group in discussion about developing the [RSA Environment Awards Forum](#), Louise and Emily spoke with Fellows about [how design can help education](#), Matt spoke about the [Social Brain Project](#), and Michaela and Sam introduced the [Peterborough Project](#) around sustainable citizenship.

Please visit these [blogs](#) to have the opportunity to comment and get involved. We will keep you informed about project developments and ways to participate.



Regional activity

AGM Celebrations took place throughout the regions where Fellows were able to engage with each other at a local level and discover more about the future of the Fellowship. To find out further information about the events and what the next steps are, please [read more](#).

South

Are you missing out?

Join the [South Central](#) online space or [South East](#) online space now! They provide an opportunity to hear the latest news and to connect with local Fellows online.

Please contact [Olivia Rainford](#), Networks Manager for all other queries about the region.

RSA

On **29 October at 18.00** Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, RSA will be giving his annual lecture. This year the title is *"Left Brain, Right Brain: Human nature and political values"*. This will be [live streamed](#). To see these events via [Watch Live](#) please make sure you have [logged-on](#) to the website. If you have not logged-on before you need to register at least 24 hours in advance to ensure you will be able to watch these events. Please see the [FAQ's](#) if you have not registered before for further information.

Alternatively you can always [listen live](#), or you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events. Filmed events are available to watch on [RSA Vision](#).

North

RSA Fellows are invited to get involved with the first **Northumberland Youth Theatre Festival** taking place in Summer 2010. The two week programme will include participants from the age of 16-19, and help is needed in a number of fields.

To find out more about this initiative please see the [North East pages](#) and find out how you could help. A meeting to discuss the Festival is also taking place at **18.00, 3 November** which Fellows are invited along to.

The North East now has City Networks in Tees Valley, Durham and Newcastle. The next one will be in Newcastle on **Wednesday 21 October**.



RSA Ecology in Cumbria

Nick Jones FRSA led an inspiring display of Fellowship activity on **11 September 2009**, coordinating a seminar that facilitated an exciting collaboration between the **RSA Arts and Ecology** programme, the **Brantwood Trust** and **Grizedale Arts**. Around thirty RSA Fellows, local artists, scientists, architects and innovators gathered to explore the ways in which the arts and sciences can work creatively together to address the major environmental issues of our time. For further information on the event, [read more](#).



Birmingham Book Festival

This month the **RSA Events** programme returns to the **Birmingham Book Festival**. BBF's founder director is Jonathan Davidson FRSA. This year the Festival celebrates ten years of bringing innovative and exciting "reading, writing and thinking" activities to audiences in the West Midlands and beyond. The special series of RSA events at the Festival this year has already included a fantastic conversation between William Shaw of the **RSA Arts & Ecology** programme and the environmentalist Tristram Stuart on Waste: *Uncovering the Global Food Scandal*. You can **watch** William's exclusive video footage of the event.

We have a limited number of complimentary tickets available for the next RSA event at the Festival - Richard Hamblin on **Extraordinary Clouds**. Join Richard on **Tuesday 27 October at 19.15** for a celebration of unusual cloud formations and atmospheric phenomena demonstrating the most surprising and seemingly impossible patterns that can be created by the natural cycles of the weather as well as man-made atmospheric effects. To apply for tickets, please **email** the Events team at the RSA. For more information visit the **Birmingham Book Festival website**.



Latest RSA Journal

We have a special opportunity to 'Ask the Author' in the **autumn issue** of the Journal. David Blanchflower, Professor of Economics and former member of the Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England, is ideally placed to write about **youth unemployment**. Read his article on the long-term effects of unemployment on communities, and send your questions on this, or any related subject to: www.thersa.org/fellowship/journal/QandA. *Please note this address is different from the one given in the print Journal.*

Other features in the Journal, available in print and online, look at different aspects of community. The idea of social capital is explored by **David Halpern**, and the potential dichotomy between community values and the rights of the individual is exposed by **Amitai Etzioni**. An article in the Journal also introduces you to some new members of the **Fellowship Council**, and some exciting **networking opportunities** developed by Fellows looking to address the balance between profit and responsibility.



Fellow's Profile- Gerry Acher

Gerry Acher has been a Fellow since 1998 and was RSA Chair from October 2006 to 2009. As his Chairmanship of the RSA comes to end, he talks here about his hopes for the RSA and the potential for the Fellowship:

"After I retired from my full-time career at KPMG as Senior Partner for London, I decided to devote and divide my time between various public interest and charitable activities. My two criteria were that I had to have a passion for the subject and I had to be able to enjoy working with the people I had met through working for the organisation. So at present I am Deputy Chairman of the National Lottery; I feel passionately about the need to fund good causes in society. I am Vice-Chair of **Motability**, a charity which provides half a million cars for disabled people. I am also involved in a number of other charities; overarching all of this was the Chairmanship of the RSA. I joined the Trustee Board as Treasurer in 2000 and became the Chair in 2006.

I joined the Fellowship for 3 reasons. First I found many of the issues the RSA was tackling were close to my own heart. I enjoyed the fact that I met people from different spheres to my own professional arena, and I had the wish to contribute to the ongoing success of the RSA. I joined the Fellowship Council because I felt the one piece of unfinished work for me was learning how best to

Further details can be found on the [website](#). Details of City networks in the North East region can also be found in the Events section of the [Virtual Coffeehouse site](#).

For further details about the region please contact **Judith Friedman**, Networks Manager.

East

On **Friday 6 November at 14.00**, Progressing the Chelmsford Forum, will take place at the Council Chamber, Chelmsford Civic Centre.

The next steps in progressing the Forum and the Chelmsford redevelopment will be discussed and decided at this meeting. There will be a key note speaker. If you missed out last time and wish to be invited to the meeting, please contact **Malcolm Noble**.

The latest newsletter for the East of England has just been published. Please take a look on the [East of England pages](#).

Please contact **Clare Reilly** or **Gladys Jones** with questions about any events in this region.

Wales/West

An event in Exeter organised by the Exeter LEG is taking place on **Thursday 29 October** titled **Journeys In Blue** and will start at 18.00. For further activities in the region please contact **Chris Luffingham** or see [here](#) for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

A special event is taking place in Dundee on **Tuesday 20 October**. Using a model developed by a Fellow, Tony Hodgson, the **International Futures Forum World game** examines the complexities of the global situation and explores possible solutions to the core challenges that the world faces. For details of the evening and suggested topics for discussion, see the [Scotland webpages](#). Further information on this event and model will be coming soon in the newsletter.

The City networks in Scotland continue to be well-attended. The next evening will take place on **Thursday 29 October at Le Monde**, Edinburgh from 17.00.

the one piece of unfinished work for me was learning how best to develop a motivated bunch of Fellows in their local areas and how to link their activities to what society should be doing more generally.

Given the chance I would insist upon the re-acceptance of a system of values in our daily lives as being the only way we can co-exist and progress with our society. The constant degradation of moral values and the continual drift away from morality is something I would change. An example of this is the parliamentary expenses scandal.

Some recent news I heard which inspired me, was the tremendous success of the RSA Academy in the first year in terms of academic achievements, especially in the science subjects. You can see more information on this amazing achievement on the [RSA website](#). In the last week I learnt there is a role to play in helping to develop a society where enterprise and entrepreneurship will flourish and that this will be necessary to help all of the country out of its debt-ridden crisis and rising unemployment. This is something that came out of the [inaugural lecture](#) by our new Chairman.

I speak to interesting Fellows all the time but I enjoyed talking to Tessy Britton last week and her willingness not to accept established norms but to keep challenging until the right solution is found. There will be lots of things in the future that I wish to speak to Fellows about but now is the time to reflect on the successful meeting of the Fellowship Council and to work out what its next steps should be. I like to have space to reflect but I am excited about where we could take it in the future.

I have always hoped that there is a real role in our modern society for organisations like the RSA itself and organisations like it. What I have seen us achieve in the last few years shows our true capabilities, and I am wholly convinced that there is a place for the RSA."



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 the editor's discretion.

You have received this email as a Fellow of the RSA.
[Unsubscribe from the Fellowship Newsletter.](#)

Please see the [website](#) for more information on upcoming evenings.

Please email [Judith Friedman](#) with any queries about regional activities.

International

USA

The first week of November offers three opportunities for Fellows:
(1) complimentary admission to the Washington DC [World Energy Engineering Congress](#) on **November 4-6**;
(2) a rare chance to visit the [Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation](#) in Stratford, Connecticut on **November 5**; and
(3) reduced registration for [Envisioning Business and the Urban Environment](#) at Baruch College in New York on **November 6**.

More events and discussions can be found at the [American Coffee House](#).

Nominations are invited of Fellows interested in standing for election to the [RSA-US Board of Trustees](#) at the US AGM on **December 1** in New York City. Please contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), for further information.

Brussels

The next [networking evening](#) is taking place in Brussels on **Tuesday 27 October**. Fellows in the area or those visiting are invited for an evening of discussion at the [Renaissance Hotel](#). For any queries please contact Networks Manager, [Georgina Browes](#).

Australia

On **Monday 21 October** a Fellows event is taking place in Sydney titled "*Is it too late to prevent catastrophic climate change?*" This is the next in a series of events taking place around Australia about climate change. For further details please see the [A&NZ webpages](#).

Also taking place this month is the launch of the Perth City Network on **Wednesday 28 October** at 18.00 in the Seminar Room, University Club of WA. The speaker is Craig Lawrence, talking about "*Garden Australia: Securing Future Food Supplies*".

For queries about any of the networks taking place in Australia and New Zealand please contact [Leigh-Ann Shannon](#).

