

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 15 March 2010

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News and Events



Social Entrepreneurs Network

Business for the common good has always been at the heart of the RSA and the Fellowships' aims. If you are a social entrepreneur or interested in social enterprise, we would like to invite you to join us on **Wednesday 28 April** for the launch of the Social Entrepreneurs network. Social enterprises and social entrepreneurs are emerging in all areas of industry.

Malcolm Scovil FRSA is leading the network and the aim is to foster original thought in social enterprise; both generally as a form of commerce and specifically as it relates to new, innovative projects. If you would like further information on the network from Malcolm and to [register](#) for the launch event please [read more](#).



Chelmsford Forum

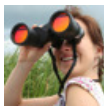
The FRSA project to redevelop Chelmsford town centre moves to the next stage with a forum to be held on **Friday 19 March**. From 2pm onwards, RSA Fellows are invited to join with local residents and businesses for a third Chelmsford Town Centre Forum.

Friday's event will launch the '*Chelmsford Visioning 2010*' project, a series of workshops and events to be held in the town centre in coming months. Each workshop will seek to build relationships with different segments of the local community to stimulate public interest in, and appreciation and care of, the history, appearance and character of Chelmsford. For further information on the event and how to register, [read more](#).



Digital Engagement: Chelmsford

Fellows are invited to the next workshop in the Digital Engagement programme to be held in Chelmsford on **Monday 29 March**. The session in Chelmsford will focus on skills and knowledge sharing techniques, working one to one or within small groups and all participants are encouraged to create active community online spaces using existing social media tools. To book a place please contact Networks manager, [Clare Reilly](#). This is one in a series of events taking place. To read the account of the Peterborough workshop in November by one of the facilitators, Amy Sample Ward FRSA, and for information about the Chelmsford event, [read more](#).



Developments in the South East

Activity in the South East region of the UK has been growing in the last few months and on 11 February, 2010, Fellows from in and around Brighton and Hove gathered together to explore 'What it means to be human in the 21st Century'. This was just one of the events taking place in the area; the challenge now is to see how Fellows in Brighton and Hove, and in Surrey, can help foster a connected Fellowship community capable of change. For more information on how you can get involved, [read more](#).



Fellows Profile- Jo Rice

Jo Rice is Chief Executive of charity, [Spear](#). She talks here of her work with young people and how the Fellowship has given her extra insight:

"We work with unemployed 16-24 year olds and run a six week development programme to help them get back into mainstream education or into work. I set up the project in 2003 with a group from [St Paul's Church](#) in Hammersmith who now form the trustees of the charity. The church had been running a number of successful relief-based community projects such as a homeless shelter and a Debt Advice Centre but there was an increasing need

In brief

Please see a selection of activities taking place worldwide...

Edinburgh

Fellows in the area are invited to come along to the Edinburgh local network taking place the last Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 25 March** at [Le Monde](#) on George Street, Edinburgh. If you would like to attend please contact [June Edgar FRSA](#) so we can get an idea of numbers.



Reading

RSA Fellows based in the Reading area and their guests are invited to meet and network with one another in informal surroundings on the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is **Tuesday 16 March**.



Come and join us and get to know other Fellows, let us know what events you would like to see and relax with stimulating company. We meet at the bar in the [Malmaison Hotel](#), Reading between 6pm and 8pm. [Book now!](#)

Stay up-to-date with news and further events, as well as connect with Fellows from across the region by joining the [South Central online site](#).

RSA

Come and join us **Monday 22 March**, for [What should everyone know?](#) at 6pm.



This RSA Debate will be asking: *What should every member of our society know? What is the knowledge we feel is worth teaching all young people during their time at school, and what is that knowledge for?* Since the introduction of the National Curriculum, debate around what the content of our education should be, has remained hotly contested. Join us to

center and a Debt Advice Centre but there was an increasing threat and desire to set up something more developmental and preventative in nature. Spear was the response and we work with disaffected young people on the attitudinal and motivational issues that hold them back as well as providing more traditional career planning support and basic qualifications. More than 80% of the young people we work with go into work or return to education and remain there a year later.

The Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to hear from, and occasionally meet with, the big thinkers in the social change arena as well as other practitioners wrestling with the same big issues. I have found the opportunity to engage with current thought on the most pressing issues and identify best practice of enormous value. Being a Fellow has also broadened my view and enabled me to understand where our own work fits within the wider political and social arenas.

Developing the **Spear** programme has forced us to look at the key issues disadvantaged young people face in engaging with society as a whole and the economy in particular. We have identified one or two core issues and have found ways of tackling them effectively. For example, the 'victim mentality' plays a significant role in disempowering young people; and the absence of an understanding of the formal register of language provides a significant barrier to their integration into mainstream society. These issues seem to have a reasonably universal application to challenges around social change and while in no way representing the solution to all problems, there is learning that we have benefited from due to a great deal of trial and error that could contribute to the projects the Fellowship is working on.

I fear that the human rights agenda (which of course in and of itself is to be applauded) has been mutated into an increasingly dangerous 'entitlement' culture. This culture is a key barrier that we fight to overcome in the young people we work with. The effect of their skewed understanding of rights without a balancing understanding of responsibility is a key cause of their disaffection. It is this entitlement culture that I would change if I could.

Recently I attended the **Centre for Social Justice** launch event for their new paper on gangs in Britain. Karyn McCluskey of the Metropolitan Police gave a stunning presentation profiling one Glaswegian gang member who committed a violent murder that we viewed on CCTV footage. The footage of the stabbing was brutal and shocking. The profile of the murderer demonstrated the tragic inevitability of the event. It was a depressing presentation and none of the proposed solutions seem straightforward but it was a valuable insight into the seriousness of the issues we face in this country and the dangerous generational spiral we are heading into.

I met Andy Gibson from **Sociability** at my 'New Fellows' evening. In the four minutes we were given to converse I established that he has probably identified the answers to most of life and society's problems. Sadly I didn't get them all down in those four minutes; maybe next time. [On connecting with other Fellows] There are a raft of scenarios we face as a charity that I'm sure other Fellows have encountered before. For example: navigating government funding streams; rolling out programmes nationally while retaining service quality; and sustaining a culture in an organisation across multiple sites. Meeting Fellows who have addressed these issues would be of huge value as we grow". Contact **Jo** if you would like to discuss these issues.

*Know of an inspiring Fellow whom you'd like us to feature in the next newsletter? 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.

Any news?

Communicating the activities of the Fellowship is the first step to creating the Fellowship network. As an RSA Fellow if there is

notably contested. Join us to discuss what is the role of different kinds of knowledge, and what entitlement to knowledge should entail in 21st century Britain. To see Shami Chakrabhati discuss 'What should everyone know?' please see the **event page**.

Alternatively you can **listen**, or you can subscribe to our **podcast** for past events. Filmed events are available to watch on **RSA Vision**.

USA

Winter weather did not prevent fellowship gatherings in Chicago, Washington and New York in February and the **Conversation on Copenhagen** went ahead in the nick of time before Manhattan was partially shut down by a snow storm. Report to follow.



Looking forward, details of networking events and lectures planned in New England, the northeast, the southeast, north central, and southern California are posted on the **American Coffee House** as they become available. Fellows are also discussing several project ideas including: *Nutrition, health and childhood obesity; National security, including energy and food security; Education and keeping up with technological change; Preventing another economic meltdown; Promoting creativity and strategic thinking at every stage of life; Improving agriculture and water supply in Kenya.*

There are potentially many "BIG Projects" out there which will offer opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration and transatlantic engagement if only we can make the right connections. Visit the **American Coffee House** to keep up with all the latest news and discussions or contact **Lynn Broadbent**.

Nominate a Friend

Do you know someone who you think should be a Fellow? Do you have colleagues, friends or contacts who could benefit from the opportunities of Fellowship?

Tell us who and why, and we'll send an invitation citing your recommendation. Please note, you will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form. If you

anything you are doing in your area which other Fellows should know about and can get involved in, [please contact us](#).

have any questions, please contact [Laura Billings](#).

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.

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