

RSA Fellowship

Removing barriers to social progress

www.theRSA.org

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 1 June 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



Do you want help to make your community project more effective?

Are you interested in setting up a community website to help your project achieve its aims?

Can you come to London for a day on Saturday 11 July 2009?

The RSA is hosting a conference on 11 July 2009 to provide practical support for RSA Fellows and others on developing community websites to contribute to positive social and economic changes. This forms part of the RSA Connected Communities programme: action research on strengthening deprived communities.

Visit [our website](#) for selection criteria and an application form, or contact [Ashish Prashar](#) for more details.



Social Innovation Camp-Turning Ideas into Action

The Social Innovation Camp is looking for the best ideas for web-based tools that can change stuff that matters. Taking place on Friday 19 to Sunday 21 June, at the Saltire Centre, Glasgow, the RSA is one of the Social Innovation Camp's community partners and this fantastic opportunity to turn ideas into action is open to all Fellows. For further information about the camp and how to get involved, please [read more](#).



Respond!

Respond! takes place in June 2009 to highlight and celebrate a month of nationwide events, exhibitions, talks and projects that demonstrate the arts' engagement with environmental issues. **Respond!** started as a simple idea. What if we find out how many arts events in the UK in a single month are responding to the ever-increasing threats to the environment? Michaela Crimmin, Head of Arts & Ecology at the RSA talks about the campaign and how Fellows can get involved.

[Read more](#).



Open House Day at RSA - Sunday 28 June

The monthly Open House events have recently been revamped. These will now take place quarterly rather than every month but will feature a much fuller introduction to the RSA including tours given by staff, rather than solely on a self-guided basis.

The next Open House will be held on Sunday 28 June from 10am to 1pm with tours at 10.15am, 11.15am and 12.15pm; the 10.15am tour will be followed by a tour of the area featuring other sites connected to the RSA's history, conducted by RSA Fellow Gerald Smith. An [RSA House Wedding showcase](#) will also be taking place from 11am to 2pm.



Fellowship Council-the next stage

The call for Nominations for the RSA Fellowship Council closed at noon on Friday 22 May. The response from Fellows has been enthusiastic, positive and diverse. We have in excess of 50 potential candidates representing the UK and abroad. Nominations have been received from all regions.

The next phase of this process will be the [Council Elections](#) launching on 15 June 2009 and closing on 3 July. All Fellows' are encouraged to participate

North

The next Manchester City Network will be taking place at Urbis on Thursday 11 June.

This network meets on second Thursday of every month and meets in the Modern bar on the 6th Floor. Please come along with friends and colleagues and meet other RSA Fellows to share ideas and projects you're working on, build relationships and offer your support to others. We'll be there from 5pm until about 7pm but it's a relaxed affair, so please feel free to drop in when you can.

You can [register](#) a place here so that we can be expecting you.

South

RSA Fellows in Chichester and Portsmouth have set up a network on the Ning social networking site as a means of communication specific to this geographical area (PO1-41 postcode and the GU28-33 postcode).

Please see the link to the [Portsmouth and Chichester network](#) to sign up and for more information please see the [South central webpages](#).

On 17 June join philosopher Karen Armstrong at RSA lecture [Why Interfaith?](#) as she examines the very concept, function and value of interfaith dialogue in this exclusive event. Asking why is there such emphasis on interfaith initiatives?

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



Fellow's Profile

Sally Davis FRSA is a social entrepreneur and MD of Growing Ambitions CIC. Here she talks about the RSA and getting people in touch:

I started Growing Ambitions because I saw young people needing to hear more about opportunities open to them, and I used the internet because it's how people find, and interact with, each other today. It makes sense. We just put people in touch with each other – simple.

Growing Ambitions is a 21st century solution to an enduring national and societal problem: lack of 'real' careers information for young people. Through the **website** we broker volunteer career speakers from every workplace, UK-wide, into their local secondary schools, colleges and universities. Volunteers talk to young people about their careers and day jobs.

I joined the RSA because I was invited by my friend and previous colleague Keith Lockwood, a talented public affairs professional. I relished the prospect of meeting real thinkers and doers in many different fields. I also felt that networking in this way would help me further my own personal vision for social regeneration: encouraging young people into truly suitable careers and helping them to fulfil their potential. This is the key aim of my social enterprise Growing Ambitions.

I recently met Sir William Atkinson at a RSA event at Churchers College in Petersfield last year. He is the inspirational headmaster of Phoenix High School in Hammersmith. He turned around the school in 8 years from being in special measures to being top of the list. How did he do it? Vision, discipline, believing in the youngsters, challenging them to aim higher. I can identify with that. Marvellous!

On contributing to the RSA: When I found no local RSA events in the city of Portsmouth, I became the self appointed organiser of RSA events in Portsmouth, since last September.

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. Any editorial decisions will be final.

You have received this email as a Fellow of the RSA.
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every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Please contact **Michael Devlin** with any questions.

Wales/West

The Cheltenham Network last month was a great success with 47 in attendance! The next Cheltenham Network will take place on Thursday 18 June at 6.30 Monty's Bar and Brasserie. To join us you can **sign up for the Cheltenham network**.

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

Scotland

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.

The next get together will take place on Tuesday 9 June 5pm – 7pm, at **Cafe Gandolfi** 64 Albion Street, Glasgow. If you would like to join us please **register quickly**.

International

USA

This month's networks meetings took place in New Haven and Baltimore, joining the growing list of active Fellowship regions in the US. Workshops and presentations are planned on a variety of topics such as healthcare, art, design, urban regeneration, education and environment. For further events in June please see the **US Fellowship pages**.

The **American Coffee House** is open to visitors from around the world - ideas travel well! Please contact **Lynn Broadbent**, US Fellowship Director, for more information.

The RSA combines thought leadership with social innovation to further human progress. Building on our 250 year history as a beacon for enlightenment values, we undertake influential and varied research projects and host the UKs most ambitious free lecture series. Our work is supported by 27,000 Fellows, an international network of influencers and innovators from every field and background.

To find out more visit our website here - <http://www.theRSA.org>

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