

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 16 November 2009

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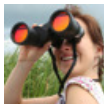
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News and Events



What's at Stake in Copenhagen?

On **7 December 2009**, the **United Nations conference** in Copenhagen is attempting to establish a new regime for combating climate change. There is a lot at stake and the clock is ticking. Since 1996, climate change has accelerated. Scientists now recognize that without drastic cuts, far beyond what was envisaged at **Kyoto**, dangerous climate change may set in, which will put in peril the very survival of humanity. Robin Thompson FRSA talks about the challenges ahead, the hopes for the future, and urges Fellows with a passion for this subject to get involved. For further information and how to comment please [read more](#).



Looking to the Future: RSA Cymru Wales

As you may be aware, two new RSA regions - 'Cymru Wales' and 'West' - will be formally established on **1 January 2010**. In anticipation of this change the Wales Project Panel and RSA staff are inviting Fellows to come together in Cardiff to share ideas and develop an early programme of initiatives that will help to make the RSA in Wales a relevant and dynamic force for social change. For further details and [how to register](#) for the event in Cardiff, please [read more](#).



FRSA Project: The impact of regional newspapers

Neil Fowler FRSA is currently researching the decline of the UK regional newspaper industry and examining possible long-term solutions for its survival. Neil will examine ramifications for democracy and communities across the country if newspapers continue to close and needs Fellows' experiences of regional newspapers to conduct research. To find out further information about how to get involved in this Fellow's project, please [read more](#).



Developing the London Network

As mentioned in [previous issues](#) of the newsletter, City networks started off as an initiative for Fellows to get together on a local, informal basis so they could connect, share ideas and realise what a small, thoughtful group of people could potentially do in their local area.

Local networks have been growing, in size and number, throughout the world since the beginning of the year and you can see a map of all current networks on the [global map](#) in the Fellowship section of the RSA website. One of the early networks was set up at the Royal Festival Hall, London in March 2009 and has attracted a sizeable number of Fellows since its launch.

We now intend to use London as a pilot to see what outcomes we can achieve by using a new, facilitated model. It is an experimental time for the network with the aim of developing exciting new ways for Fellows to engage, build relationships and find potential collaborators. This new model will be run by Fellows in London and aided by staff. It is hoped this will be the next step in enabling Fellows to use the Fellowship to effect real change. The next get together will take place on **Thursday 3 December**, at a new (quieter) venue of **Milfords**, from 6pm onwards. **Please register** if you wish to attend so we can structure the evening more effectively. **View further information on the venue and the evening's agenda**.

For further details of the London City network please see the [London online platform](#) or contact Network manager for London region, [Clare Bailey](#).

In brief

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

Brighton

Join the [South Central](#) online space or [South East](#) online space to connect with local Fellows. Remember you can [book now](#) for the new monthly breakfast network in Brighton. First meeting on **20 November**. Please contact [Olivia Rainford](#), Networks Manager for all other queries about the region.



RSA

Join us for "[Playing the City](#)", with Kevin Slavin on **18 November at 6pm** at the RSA. Kevin, Managing Director and co-Founder of Area/Code presents a powerful argument for games as social systems with people at the centre.



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](#).

Scotland

The [Angus Millar Lecture 2009](#) with Lord Robert Skidelsky is taking place **Tuesday 24 November 2009** at 6pm. This lecture by Lord Skidelsky, the pre-eminent expert on Keynes and Keynesian theory, will offer a timely and incisive analysis of the challenges facing our financiers and society at large. Please [register](#) to reserve a place.



Nottingham

Join Fellows and friends at the Nottingham Network on **Tuesday 24 November** at the Pitcher & Piano (within the Lacemarket area). The aim will be to hold regular Nottingham



region, [Clare Kelly](#).

Remember, if there isn't a local network near you and you wish to set one up, we would love to **hear from you** and support you in this initiative.



Fellow's Profile - Heather Hilburn

Heather Hilburn FRSA is advisor to the Olympic Delivery Authority for the **London 2012** games. She talks here about the need for public spaces and the potential the Fellowship has to instigate change:

"My focus is the Olympic Park and Public Realm - master planning, design, and implementation for the games and post games period. I have worked on architectural and built environment projects over the past 15 years, mainly related to sports and culture. My favourite projects include **Yehudi Menuhin Hall** in Surrey, **Tate Modern** and the **Royal College of Music**, because the clients were a delight to work with and so passionate about culture.

I am particularly interested in space that people share. This goes far beyond landscaping and infrastructure. Shared space plays a critical role in forming behaviour, particularly with young people. I'm inspired by the recent news that Rio de Janeiro has won the 2016 Olympic bid, I think it will be a great push for South America and the young population in that part of the world.

Regarding other Fellows, I think that Lesley Gavin, Futurologist at BT has a fascinating career, Leslie is a great forward thinker. We have recently engaged in an interesting dialogue on sustainability, technology, social networking and forms of "space" that people share other than the built environment.

I joined the RSA because I was inspired by its role in history and the visions it has turned into reality. I am interested in how historically the RSA initiated those incredible "Big Moves" like the First Exhibition of 1756 and the **Great Exhibition of 1851**, shaping great minds that have had an impact on the world ever since. Now, we have an implosion of those original ideas – we have gone from an emphasis on global to local– there is more focus on communities and their role in business, public safety, communication, the environment and shaping cultural identity. I think the recent interest in developing and understanding social enterprise and community engagement will be another opportunity for the RSA to make yet another Big Move, to be a catalyst for great thinking and enabling the local and global development of Community. I for one want to be part of that, and want to engage with other Fellows on forming the "Local Big Move".

I recently attended the RSA '**Future of the City of London**' network event. I live in the City, so I am interested in the aspirations of the City as not only a place to work but also a viable place to live. I just found out that Handel played the organ in my local church, and Holbein may be buried underneath! What I enjoyed about the network were the individuals from varied disciplines who had come together to explore a very topical issue. One of the first conclusions of the session was that the network needs to work with other organisations, like the City of London and the **FSA**, to work effectively. It was a real joy to delve into a challenge with those outside my field and I look forward to meeting up with the network again. I want to see how the Fellowship networks will cross ideas and link up to respond to challenges facing society.

If I had the opportunity to influence an aspect of society, it would be the fear of change. I believe that our ability as a society to react to change in the next ten years will be critical to the survival of the planet."

*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

Networks throughout 2010. This event provides a taster of what RSA Fellowship can offer within the Nottingham city region. For further details join the **East Midlands online network**.

Manchester

Save the date! The Manchester Curriculum



Reflections event will take place **Monday 7 December at 3.30pm** at the **Cube**. The session will feature comments on the Manchester project by the RSA Education Project team. **View the invitation** for further details - more information to follow.

Cheltenham

Fellows are invited to a Cheltenham Network meeting at the Hotel on the Park on **Thursday 19 November at 6-8pm**. Building on last month's success, this allows Fellows in the region to connect. What are the next steps? Could there be a particular area of relevance for the region? **Register your place**. Please email **Chris Luffingham** with any queries.



Peterborough

A reminder about the Social Media Programme taking place in Peterborough on **Wednesday 25 November**. Come and support your community project by learning new skills. Please contact **Vivienne Long-Ferguson** if you wish to take part, stating what your project is about and which social media tools you'd like to learn to use for your project.



Belfast

Fellows are invited to an event in partnership with the **Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)** at Linen Hall Library, Belfast at **12 noon, 27 November 2009**. Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive and Lord Best, RSA Trustee will be present discussing the challenges to segregated housing. To reserve a place please **email** Edel Hughes at CIH.



USA

Visit the **American Coffee House** for news and events, including details of the **Sustainability Task Force** -



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.

think big, start small and take action today! Upcoming events include [climate change debate](#) on November 23 and the screening of the [Age of Stupid](#) on December 1, both in New York. In Washington DC, RSA-US Fellows will present a panel on [Internet and Community](#) at the DuPont Summit on December 4.

Melbourne

The next [Melbourne City network](#) is on **Wednesday 18 November** where Fellows' discussions and deliberations on the [3P's initiative](#) will take place. The network starts at 6.30pm at Graduate House, Carlton.



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