

Welcome to the first RSA Fellowship newsletter - 6 April 2009

Welcome to the first edition of the fortnightly Fellowship newsletter, a regular insight into the various activities, projects and events that are happening throughout the RSA Fellowship network.

As a Fellow of the RSA, you are a member of a diverse and influential network could bring. This newsletter will paint a picture of Fellowship activities and provide opportunities for you to get involved. We'd love to hear your views – do get in touch and let us know what you think!

News and Events



City Networks - Meet Fellows near you

City Networks are network events on a local level which have started springing up across the UK. City Networks provide a chance for Fellows to meet each other, build relationships on a local level and share their ideas and expertise. For more information about where City Networks are taking place [please see the rest of the article](#).



Portico Network and Philanthropy

RSA Fellows in Manchester have been talking to the [Portico Library](#) about a partnership launching in the Spring. From this collaboration a joint monthly City Network between the RSA and Portico Library will start on 28 April 2009. Fellows are encouraged to attend the network to allow them to connect with other Fellows in this venue in central Manchester.

[Find out more and book your place.](#)



Venture Fund in RSA Scotland

In January 2009, RSA Scotland launched a venture fund which will distribute £10,000 in seed funds for Fellows' projects in its first year. It is led and funded by Fellows and creates an exciting example of Fellows supporting other Fellows' ideas. [View more of the article.](#)



A Severn Barrage or What? Options for Renewable Energy from the Severn Estuary

A Public Forum at Holland House Hotel, Cardiff **6:00pm, Wednesday 8 April 2009**

A Barrage spanning the Severn Estuary is an idea that has existed since the 19th Century and is now among the options being examined by government as a major source of renewable energy for the region and the nation. The RSA has provided a neutral platform for interested parties to discuss this project.

[View further details of the event.](#)



Nominate a Fellow

You can help shape the future of the RSA and develop Fellowship networks.

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? [Nominate them](#). Log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form.



Fellow's Profile

Being a Fellow of the RSA is being connected to a network of 27000+ like-minded, engaged people.

One of our Fellows, **John Brewer** is a Professor of Sixth-Century Sociology at the University of Aberdeen. Recently made President of the British Sociological Society, he talks about the need for the modern-day professor to make a difference in people's lives:

"A modern-day professor has four major responsibilities - teaching, research, administration and public service. The first three are obvious; it's the fourth that perhaps needs explanation. Good citizenship is essential for today's professoriate as a way of making one's position relevant to the needs of society."

North

Fellows in the North East have started a [Virtual Coffee House \(VCH\)](#), an online place where RSA Fellows and their contacts can meet, debate and catalyse change. Fellows are able to discuss projects, share ideas and connect. For more information please see the [North East webpages](#).

South

On 5 May at the RSA the [2009 President's lecture](#) chaired by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh will take place.

Quintin McKellar, Professor of Veterinary Science at The Royal Veterinary College, will outline the ways in which we can continue to improve effectiveness in agricultural productivity and encourage liberalised global markets to ensure free and plentiful trade whilst assessing and implementing strategies to contain the considerable damage agriculture has had on the environment.

The event is full but there is a [waiting list](#). 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 every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Further information about activities in the area will be coming soon. In the meantime please contact [Maureen Carlomagno](#) with any questions.

West

The next Birmingham City Network meeting will be held

"This also infuses the sort of teaching and research I do, such as my work on the sociology of peace processes. As a sociologist this approach is called 'public sociology', using the discipline to understand and improve the social condition."

"I would like to make equality of opportunity a reality. I don't mean eliminate inequality - some forms of inequality are desirable, even necessary - but I would like to eliminate the obstacles that make equality of opportunity difficult to achieve. This touches on access to health, education, and other life-chance opportunities, as well as reducing poverty, violence, conflict, unforgiveness and the like."

"I come from a small village on the Welsh borders; my father was killed down a coal mine when I was only two, before the days when the welfare state was the safety net it is now."

"Education - and particularly in sociology - has enabled me to achieve a great deal from unpromising beginnings. I'd like everyone to get the same chance I did."

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.

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, and any editorial decisions will be final.

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

RSA House offer

The RSA are offering a 20% CONNECTION voucher on our 12 beautiful rooms and spaces within the RSA House. These rooms can be hired for private meetings and events; such as weddings. The voucher can be redeemed by RSA Fellows, friends, networks, colleagues and family. Find out more about [RSA House](#) and book your function with us today.

Network meeting will be held on the evening of Wednesday 8 April. For further information about how to attend visit the [West Midlands pages](#).

International

The Fellowship in the US have a [American Coffee House](#) where you can keep track of events and news. This is a virtual meeting place for Fellows to connect, to inspire action and change and to build upon current activity. Please see the [USA Fellowship pages](#) or contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director for more information.

The RSA in Brussels has a burgeoning City Network. For more information about Brussels and how Fellows can get involved please contact [Georgina Browes](#).