

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 30 November 2009

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News and Events



Playing the Game: RSA Fellows in Scotland explore possible futures for their city

RSA Fellows in Dundee joined forces with the International Futures Forum (IFF) and professionals from NHS Tayside to explore possible futures for Dundee City. This event was held in the context of the International Futures Forum's work on critical global trends and potential discontinuities and disruptions.

This was explored through the use of the **IFF World Game**, a methodology which was developed by Tony Hodgson FRSA and Graham Leicester FRSA. Using a 'game board' model, participants role-played as an advisory council to Dundee City. For further explanation of the IFF World Game, how it will be used by Scottish Fellows and how you could use it in your community, [read more](#).



Manchester Curriculum

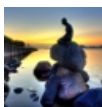
Since September 2008, the RSA has been working with three schools in Manchester to explore the idea of an Area Based Curriculum as one route to embedding their school in its wider community.

Fellows are invited to join Manchester City Council and the RSA at the Manchester Curriculum Reflections event, taking place on **7 December 2009**. The session will feature comments on the Manchester project by the **RSA Education** Project team and researchers from **Manchester Metropolitan University**. For further details of the **Manchester Curriculum** and how to register for the event please [read more](#).



FRSA Projects in the East Midlands

On 1 October RSA Fellows in the East Midlands met at Hill Holt Wood for an Open Space event to discuss future ideas and themes for the region. This was led by Helen Westropp FRSA, with support from other Fellows and members of the Newark Coffee-House Group. A number of project proposals emerged around the ideas of partnering business champions, redeveloping a deprived area and developing student skills through mentoring. If you wish to see the summary outcomes of the day and get involved with any of these projects please [read more](#).



Culture Futures in Copenhagen

Culture|Futures is a collaborative enterprise between a number of international and national arts and cultural organisations. It aims to support the arts and cultural sector in their efforts to harness the inspirational qualities of the arts to demystify and energise the debate about climate change. The working seminar at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December will be the first step in providing a platform for a critical dialogue between key organisations, artists and policymakers which will explore and encourage the role that arts and culture should play in the climate/sustainable development debate and in encouragement of the necessary behavioural change.

The partners of C|F include the organisers and founding members RSA and the Danish Cultural Institute, and the British Council, Goethe Institut, Cultura21, IFACCA, EUNIC, ASEF and the Italian Cultural Institute, and Arup among others. For more information on Copenhagen, the event and how to register please see the [Culture|Futures website](#).

In brief

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

West Sussex

Fellows living or working in Crawley and Bognor Regis are invited to participate in an innovative User Centred Drug Services project. For more information on the Project and other activities in the South, please contact Networks Manager, [Olivia Rainford](#).



Join the [South Central](#) online space or [South East](#) online space to connect with local Fellows.

RSA

Join us for "**The Hidden Cost of White-Collar Crime**", on **3 December at 6pm** at the RSA. The panel includes Sir Ken MacDonald QC, Professor Gary Slapper and Jonathan Aitken. They will discuss whether crimes which deplete pension funds and rob the public of tax revenues can really be seen as "victimless"?



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 monthly Glasgow and Edinburgh City networks continue to bring Fellows in for ideas exchange and lively debate. For further information on the Edinburgh Network contact [June Edgar FRSA](#) and [Rob Wherrett FRSA](#) about the Glasgow Network.



Portico Project in Manchester

Join Fellows and friends at the Portico Project launch on **Wednesday 27 January** at





Fellow's Profile - Ben Brabyn

Ben Brabyn FRSA is founder and CEO of **Bmycharity**, a commission-free online fundraising and sponsorship service. He talks here of the set up of the business and the amazing acts of generosity he witnesses daily:

"Several years ago we noticed that online fundraising could help charities increase their income and reduce their administration costs - and we've recently developed a zero-commission business model so every penny goes to the charity, and companies can benefit by being seen to support good causes and reaching a prime segment of UK donors.

When we founded the company in 2000 my co-founder Matt Cooper and I worked evenings and weekends and did everything ourselves. Matt was a computer consultant and I was a fledgling investment banker who had only recently left the Royal Marines. Without any external investors, we quickly built the business up. While our competitors focused on building a consumer brand, we aimed to highlight the communications potential as well as the fundraising potential of the web. We realised that commission charging would ultimately impair the growth of the market - and we've long been working towards a point where we could move to non-commission funding. We're delighted to have reached that point and hope it will enable many more charities to benefit from the efficiency of online fundraising and communication.

I have the privilege of seeing the generosity we help to facilitate every day. Last year I watched 79 year old David Owen skydive having raised over £35,000 for injured soldiers. Two young men recently rowed across the Indian Ocean to raise money for research into male cancers. A donor gave a single £20,000 donation through our site to a children's charity. Thousands of people overcome personal challenges like marathons and treks to help others.

If given the chance I would develop the governance structures of charities to improve internal communications and knowledge sharing, and to ensure that the needs of beneficiaries are properly represented and understood. While some organisations are remarkably good at this, it is a greater challenge than in most for-profit organisations, and needs constant attention. It is often difficult to measure the impact of charitable activity, but this is no reason not to try. Silo thinking is also a danger and in many organisational cultures it is easy to forget what the real mission of the charity is. Charity employees are there to serve the interests of their declared beneficiaries and this should remain at the forefront for all of us who are entrusted with donations.

[On joining the RSA] I joined the Fellowship following an invitation from a former Director. I was very interested by the wide range of topics addressed by the RSA. [On connecting with another Fellow] It's hard to isolate one Fellow, but if pressed I would highlight Professor Eric Thomas who has been very generous in his support and ideas. I'd like to hear from any Fellows with an interest in helping to bridge the gap between for-profit companies and the NFP sector. Working with **ACEVO**, we are trying to enrich the ways in which businesses and charities can benefit by working together".

*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.

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

the Portico Library in Manchester.

The Portico Library & Gallery and RSA are currently undertaking a Study of the Portico, reviewing past, present and future activities, and considering potential aims and objectives. This study builds on the work undertaken by Anna Lee FRSA who organised a Members Survey with the proprietors. Please **see the invitation** for further details and to register. Contact **Vivienne Long-Ferguson** for further details.

Manchester

Book now! The Manchester Curriculum Reflections event will take place **Monday 7 December at 3.30pm** at the **Cube**. **View the invitation** for further details and to register your place.



Leeds

Fellows are invited to a Leeds Network meeting at the Park Plaza on **Tuesday 8 December at 6-8pm**. **View the Yorkshire online network** for more information. Please email **Vivienne Long-Ferguson** with further enquiries for the area.



Dublin

RSA Dublin Network returns at **El Bahia 7pm on 1 December**. Organised by Marion Witton FRSA this is an opportunity for Fellows to connect with each other and have some interesting conversations. See the **Ireland online network** for further information or **contact Marion**.



USA

New Conversations on the **American Coffee House** include a new **photographic proposal** from Jonathan Worth and an opportunity for young professionals and entrepreneurs to join the British Council's **Transatlantic Network, TN2020**.



Following the November 16 newsletter article "**What's at Stake in Copenhagen**" written by Robin Thompson, a highly charged discussion on both sides of the climate change debate is ongoing. The debate will be moved to a dedicated climate change space - watch for details.

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.

Upcoming dates include a screening of the [Age of Stupid](#) in New York on **December 1** and the [DuPont Summit on Science and Technology](#) in Washington DC on **December 4**, where RSA Fellows are participating in a panel on the Internet and Society.

Contact [Lynn Broadbent](#) for more information on US Fellowship and events, which are open to any Fellow travelling to the US.