

RSA Fellowship

Removing barriers to social progress

www.theRSA.org

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 29 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

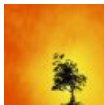


Fellowship Council- Call to vote from Gerry Acher, Deputy Chair of the RSA

That 800 Fellows voted in the first two days of the Fellowship elections is true testament that we can, should and must shift the paradigm of the relationship between the RSA and its Fellows. We want to empower our Fellows locally and some 50 have risen to the challenge by putting their names forward for the 20 elected places on our new **Fellowship Council**. I thank those who have voted so far and ask the remainder of you to vote before 7th July. The Electoral Reform Society will be sending a reminder to Fellows during this week and please use this as a prompt to vote if you have not already done so.

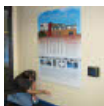
William Shipley always envisaged that the RSA Fellowship would comprise a band of activists. Don't disappoint him and please engage as he and his subsequent luminaries would have wished and vote for our Fellowship Council Candidates to give them the mandate that they need to play their full part, on your behalf, in the RSA of tomorrow.

Gerry Acher FRSA



Harnessing the Energy and Initiative of RSA Fellows for the benefit of Yorkshire

Fellows in the Yorkshire region are establishing a special wing to encourage more Fellows in the region to engage with issues, policies and action on a more practical level and share their knowledge and skills. Some suggestions have already been put forward for discussion but your thoughts and input are needed, so for more information [read more](#).



Sacrison Sustainable Surgery: North East Fellows Make a Difference

"Talk is easy and cheap, if you really want to make a difference, see if you can find a local project and influence it."

Fellows in the North East came together following a Coffeehouse Challenge Scheme. Expressing concern over reducing energy resources, Fellows met with a doctor's surgery to see what they could do in their local community. To find out how Fellows influenced the surgery, [read more](#).



Watch Live on Tuesday 30 June

A reminder that on Tuesday 30 June, RSA Fellows can catch the RSA event '**Free: the future of a radical price**' live on the RSA website!

Chris Anderson, the groundbreaking author of the 'Long Tail', will outline a dramatic new change in the way our economy functions. This live [video streaming facility](#) is currently available only to Fellows.

To access the live page, please log-in on the RSA website as usual. If you haven't registered before [please do so as soon as possible](#) so you can enjoy this new facility.



Revised Bye-Laws

A reminder about the revised Bye-Laws and the opportunity to express your opinion.

A key part of the transformation of the RSA has been an

North

A Fellows' networking event is taking place in Durham on Tuesday 7 July.

If you would like a chance to meet other Fellows informally in the NE region the **Durham Encounter** is the place to do it. An opportunity to build relationships and discuss possible projects, you can see further information about these meetings and other activities on the [Virtual Coffee House site](#).

For any further queries about the region please contact [Judith Friedman](#).

South

The next London City network is taking place on Thursday 2 July from 6.00pm at the Royal Festival Hall. There will be an opportunity to discuss the current elections to the Fellowship Council and meet some of the London candidates.

For information on all the London candidates and any optional supporting statements [visit the London region web pages](#).

RSA

Harald Müller, former adviser to Kofi Annan and Head of the Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt and Jeremy Leggett, social entrepreneur, climate-change campaigner and founder of Solarcentury, join a distinguished panel to assess the changes in lifestyles, production methods and consumption behaviour that will be required to meet the global sustainability challenge. The lecture [The Sustainability Project - How Much More Can Our Planet Take?](#) starts at 6.30pm on Monday 13 July.

Don't forget that if you cannot be at an event in person you can always [listen live](#) to the event. Alternatively, you can

Any part of the transformation of the RSA has been an assessment of our governance structures.

Feedback from Fellows has informed a review of the current Bye-Laws, including the introduction of the Fellowship Council, and ensuring that Fellows can contribute to the governance of the Society.

We welcome your comments on the proposals to change how the RSA is governed. For further information on these proposals [read more](#).



Search the RSA Library Catalogue online

The RSA Library catalogue is now available online. Fellows can search its collection of books and DVDs and make reservations, either to collect in person or have it sent to your doorstep via our Freepost service. This service is only available to Fellows, so you'll need to be logged-in on the website to access the catalogue. If you haven't logged-in as a Fellow on the website before you will need to [register](#). [Search the RSA Library catalogue](#).



Fellow's Profile

Mike Rymer FRSA recently won awards for promoting mental health in his latest short film. Here he talks about the project and joining the RSA:

I am a writer and director of fiction drama films. It was the 15 minute mental health film 'SICK' which attracted the attention of RSA's Fellowship researchers. The film's success has been reported by London Radio, Society Guardian and USA Today. It is part funded by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust Charitable Funds, but also backed by the UK Film Council, endorsed by the Samaritans, and undergoing educational trials across the UK. I have a passion for telling stories which attempt to resonate with your sense of being.

To that end, my films feature characters confronting life's great questions, but in an intimate way. 'SICK' has been selected by 60 International Film Festivals across 23 countries and garnered 20 awards in the past year.

I joined the RSA to make contact with its network and to be part of a socially conscious movement. I hope to be active in some of the debates that concern the Fellowship. My social contribution currently involves education (I teach and lecture at Universities), entertainment (filmmaking), and in small part academic writing. I would like to continue to create work which entertains and inspires. I joined the Fellowship along with my Producer, Christine Hartland. Christine's feature film W.M.D is now on release in support of War Child.

[On being given the chance to change something in society] I'm concerned at the moment with attitudes to mental health, as well as our social reaction to our elderly.

I'm excited about plans to develop Pinewood Studios and Kevin Spacey's initiatives to raise awareness of the economic contribution that the entertainment industries make in the UK.

Last week I had my first experience of teaching young people and found that they probably know more than I do!

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?

subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events and watch filmed events on [RSA Vision](#).

For further information about activities in the South East and South Central region please contact [Olivia Rainford](#).

East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Please contact [Clare Reilly](#) with any questions.

Wales/West

For activities in the region please contact [Chris Luffingham](#) or please see [here](#) for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

The June newsletter for the Scotland region has now been released. For in depth information on all activities, projects and events in the region please take a look.

The [newsletter for Scotland](#) can be found on the regional web pages. If you would like any further information about the region, please [email](#) Judith Friedman.

International

USA

Fall events will include a series of monthly conversations in Manhattan on Sustainability and Climate Change coordinated by Robin Thompson. More information to follow.

Fellows' are invited to a [viewing and special Reception](#) at the Guggenheim Museum on July 14. Further details are available on [American Coffee House](#).

Online discussions and details of US meetings are updated frequently on the [American Coffee House](#). Fellows traveling to the US are welcome to participate online and in person and can receive email event announcements on request. Please contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director, for more information.

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.

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

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