

## Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 14 December 2009

### In this issue:

Looking forward to 2010: An end of year message from Matthew Taylor  
[Drugs Project in South East](#) | [Applications open for TN2020](#) | [Air Survey in London](#)  
[Christmas and opening times at the RSA](#) | [Fellow's Profile- Claire Watt-Smith](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Please note the next Fellowship Newsletter will be published on Monday 18 January 2010.

## News and Events



### Looking forward to 2010: An end of year message from Matthew Taylor

"It has been another year of progress for the RSA. An important element has been Fellowship engagement.

Achievements this year have included **more city and local networks** in the UK and worldwide, a new more independent grouping in Wales, more popular and powerful new Fellows' evenings and – across the board - more emphasis on Fellows developing ideas together. The election of the new **Fellowship Council** was a great success. It is clear the Council is going to be a powerful advocate of a more ambitious account of Fellowship.

Next year will see the work continue with new groups being established, stronger links between Fellowship and projects and, from the spring, a monthly award available for Fellow initiatives. There has never been a more exciting time to be associated with the RSA. Thank you all for your support in 2009 and – after you have had a great Christmas and New Year – I'm sure we will achieve even more together in 2010."

**Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, RSA.**



### Drugs Project

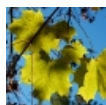
Fellows in West Sussex have recently been supporting the RSA's **User Centred Drug Services Project**. The project seeks to build on the work of

the RSA Commission on **Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy (2007)** that argued for a more tailored and expansive approach to drug services. This project aims to demonstrate that by placing the user at the centre of service design and delivery we can better chart potential route maps for individuals into sustained recovery. We need the help of Fellows, especially those living or working in West Sussex. To find out details of upcoming workshops and how you can get involved, please [read more](#).



### Applications now open for TN2020 Summit

**Transatlantic Network 2020** is a project that brings together a diverse group of young influencers from business, civil society, the arts, science and media to revitalize transatlantic and global links for the future. Through a rigorous selection process, TN2020 **recruits members** who have already reached significant levels of achievement, and will continue to develop and lead their sectors in the long term. Fellows are encouraged to apply for this opportunity so for more information [read more](#).



### Opportunity for Fellows to survey air quality in Central London

Climate change and air quality are 'hot topics' reflecting current priorities of keeping our world safe and habitable. As international politicians discuss at Copenhagen the impact of global changes caused by pressure of people, industries and pollutants, Barbara Hilton FRSA is involved in the **OPAL air survey**, a UK wide survey headed by Imperial College to document the air quality of local areas. It uses easy-to-identify lichens as indicators of nitrogen pollutants. Taking part helps scientists to answer important questions about local air quality and its impact across England. Fellows are invited to take part in one of these surveys in 2010. [Read more](#).

## In brief

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

### Reading

FRSA Reading: Monthly 'Third Monday's' on **21 December 2009**.



Fellows meet at the Malmaison Hotel between 6pm and 8pm on the third Monday of the month. Come and join us and get to know other Fellows, let us know what events you would like to see and relax with stimulating company. [Find out more](#).

Join the [South Central](#) online space or [South East](#) online space to connect with local Fellows. For all other queries contact [Olivia Rainford](#).

### RSA

See the latest RSA Vision video just in time for Christmas, "**Scroogonomics**" with Joel Waldfogel.



For events coming up in the New Year, visit the [RSA events pages](#), and sign up to our [e-list](#).

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 Local networks continue in January and provide a great opportunity for Fellows to connect and exchange ideas. For further information on the Edinburgh Network contact [June Edgar FRSA](#) and [Rob Wherrett FRSA](#) about the Glasgow Network.





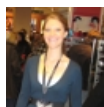
## Christmas at the RSA

### Season's Greetings!

The RSA staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Have a

wonderful Christmas break and we hope you continue to enjoy being a Fellow in 2010.

The RSA House will be closed from **2pm on Christmas Eve** and will reopen on **Monday 4 January**. For further information on opening times for the Vaults restaurant and Gerard Bar please [read more](#).



### Fellow's Profile - Claire Watt-Smith

Claire Watt-Smith FRSA talks here of her ethical company, BoBelle London, fair trade fashion and what inspires her:

"I founded **BoBelle London**, a fair trade fashion accessory company in 2007. I focused on business ethics whilst completing my Masters, and as a result, I vowed to make my company as ethical as possible. All of the accessories at BoBelle London are hand made, fairly traded and hand dyed. We use eel skin leather which is a by-product of the food industry in Asia where eels are extensively farmed for their meat and the skin is discarded. It is such a fabulous leather; incredibly strong, wonderfully luxurious and beautifully crafted. There are too many disposable fashion companies out there and I am endeavouring to show that fair trade can be fashionable as well as of exceptional quality. We are now stocked in over 50 boutiques around the country including a large department store as well as having smaller ethical stockists. Having such a wide spectrum of stockists allows BoBelle London to grow organically, which is the best way for a new brand operating in a niche market.

I was kindly asked to join the RSA and was honoured to accept. I think the ethos of the RSA is reflective of my personal beliefs, as well as my company's. I am looking forward to meeting like-minded individuals who have a passion for business, fair trade, environmental issues and more. I would like to be inspired by other members to help bring about change in our environment.

I have a passion for learning and educating others about fair trade and ethical behaviour. With this in mind I hope to help where I can to accelerate change and to help our struggling environment. I am an Ambassador for **Enterprise UK** and recently helped launch the campaign for **Global Entrepreneurship Week** with Peter Jones, which was a lot of fun! I also lecture at events including one next week as the Inspirational Speaker alongside a former candidate from "The Apprentice". I trade in fair trade fashion, so my change in society would be to re-educate people about the problems with 'fast-fashion' and the effects our 'one-stop-shopping' is having on society. I would like to send the message to all about quality over quantity; question why items are so cheap and get people to think more about saving for something really special that has been made with love and attention.

I operate in the world of fashion and business, and I always treat myself to the Sunday newspapers. I devour the fashion and business sections and this week I read a very interesting piece written by George Hammer, the founder of Urban Retreat of Harrods, the Sanctuary Spa and Aveda UK. I was so encouraged to read how he started, nurtured and grew each individual brand; and how it hasn't been easy! He explained the peaks and troughs of each brand, including coping during the recession. What has inspired me is his desire to help others. He is endeavouring to buy the lease of St Mark's church in Mayfair to turn it into the world's finest wellness centre based on the prevention of illness rather than cure. Indeed, it would be free to those locals receiving cancer treatment. I find this attitude so incredibly humbling and hope that when BoBelle London is bigger I too can do something as courageous and giving in return.

I attended a new Fellows evening recently and thoroughly enjoyed it! I spoke with the editor of a magazine, a civil engineer, the founder of an organic food company and more. I will certainly keep in touch with them and look forward to meeting new Fellows at future events. I was so encouraged and left feeling so thrilled to be a Fellow, just from the first meeting! It is wonderful to be involved with such a prestigious society. Learning and developing is so important in life – you only get this from experience. Connecting with others and hearing their stories and tales, as well as their ideas and goals, inspires and encourages others".

## Portico Project in Manchester



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

## Grimsby

Save the Date!

### Regeneration in

**Grimsby**, an event run by local Fellows will take place on **Thursday 4 February 2010 at 5pm**. More details to follow in future issues of the newsletter.



## Newcastle

The Newcastle

Encounter

continues this

month on **Wednesday 16 December at 6-8pm** at The County, Newcastle. [View the Virtual Coffee House NE](#) network for more information.



## USA

On December 1, RSA-US screened the Age of Stupid at CUNY Graduate Center in New York with remarks by Charles Vörösmarty, Director of the CUNY Environmental Cross-Roads Initiative. See details of his remarks "[The global challenge is not simply one of climate change](#)".



On **December 4**, the DuPont Summit hosted a panel on Internet and Society led by Nigel Cameron. Jules Polonetsky discussed private information and the Smart Grid; Mike Nelson reported that the Obama Administration is fundamentally transforming the way government services are provided and how policy decisions are made with the Cloud. Erik Fisher reviewed technology assessment and Erica Newland spoke on privacy issues. [See speakers' abstracts](#).

Visit the [American Coffee House](#) for details of an exhibition [on gender and climate change](#) by Frances

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.

#### 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.**

Whitehead, and on a "networked way of getting things done" by Alan Moore.

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

#### [Nominate a Friend](#)

Do you know someone who you think should be a Fellow? Do you have colleagues, friends or contacts who could benefit from the opportunities of Fellowship?

[Tell us who and why](#), and we'll send an invitation citing your recommendation. Please note, you will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form. If you have any questions, please contact [Laura Billings](#).