

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 24 January 2011

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News and Events



21st century solutions to climate change? Join us on 10 February

Communicating and solving the problem of climate change requires an integrated, conscious and smart approach. How can RSA Fellows create positive, future focused, solution-driven 21st Century dialogues? What next steps can we take?

You are invited to a unique event where Fellows will have the opportunity to explore solutions to climate change and energy security through the arts, youth issues, and storytelling.

Book now to join us on **Thursday 10 February, 6pm** and envision a 21st Century in which we have made all the right choices. [Read more...](#)



Join us in Brighton for Competition in an Age of Austerity

How can 'UK Plc' be optimistic, innovative and creative during the current economic climate?

Competition in an Age of Austerity is an event for Fellows taking place on **Saturday 12 March, 10am - 4pm**. Making their case for how the UK can raise its game to adapt to recent economic challenges, speakers from several fields will kick off a fascinating day-long event at the Brighton Dome. Fellows and their guests are invited to join us at this unique Fellow-led event to help spark ideas for action. [Read more...](#)



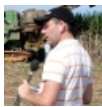
Cumbria Forest Foods network

The Cumbria Forest Food (CFF) network first appeared in the Fellowship newsletter in **February 2010**. Fellows have been developing a collaborative network around community forest foods in Cumbria and engaging the local population. The next event in the CFF network's agenda is taking place on **Monday 7 February** looking at forest gardens and permaculture, and the findings of a recent CFF network survey. [Read more...](#)



Online guidelines and Twitter update

The digital engagement working group (#RSAde) is one of the Fellowship Council working groups. Recently the focus has been on articulating a set of digital guidelines that can help Fellows make best use of social media to make the most of their Fellowship. Twitter is included in this and there will be some changes to the **RSA's Twitter** channels. [Read more...](#)



Fellow's Profile - Tim Hirsch

Tim Hirsch FRSA is a freelance journalist and communications consultant. He talks here of what inspires him and why he joined the Fellowship:

"I am currently based in Brazil but shortly moving back to the UK. Clients include the BBC, the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** and **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)** study. My focus is the communication of environmental issues, and in particular the emerging interest in the links between biodiversity, ecosystems and human well-being. I find this area fascinating because a better understanding of these links may steer societies into more rational ways of valuing nature. Close observation of the Brazilian scene over the past five years has convinced me of the vital need to communicate better, the consequences for society and the economy of allowing "business as usual" to prevail in the use and abuse of biological resources."

In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

Trustee Elections

[View the slate](#) for the upcoming Trustee Elections. Voting started on **21 January** and closes on **18 February 2011**.

Governance Advisory Group

Processes are currently being put in place to elect membership of the Governance Advisory Group from the constituencies of the Fellowship Council and Regions, in accordance with the motion passed at the AGM.

Trustee representatives will be Luke Johnson (who will chair the first meeting), Naaz Coker and David Archer. We are aiming to hold the first meeting in February.

Brussels

A special Fellows event is taking place at **The Centre**, Brussels on **Tuesday 1 February, 6pm**. This event will be the opportunity for Fellows to discuss ideas on the kind of activities and topics the network should set up and address in 2011. If you are travelling, working, or a resident of Brussels we would love to see you there. Please [rsvp](#) to Jules Mahmoudi, Networks manager for Europe to confirm your place.



Milton Keynes

Following the **successful launch** of the Milton Keynes network in December, Fellows are invited to attend the next event on **2 February, 6.30pm** to build on earlier discussions. This will take place again at the University Centre, Milton Keynes.



Visit the event page to [book your place](#)

On why he joined the Fellowship: "To have access to a critical mass of progressive intellect in the UK – invaluable when you are based abroad for a while, endeavouring to keep abreast of emerging ideas and trends in public life."

On how he thinks he could contribute to Fellowship/Society: "By sharing the insight I have gained into the real issues facing a key emerging economy, as seen from the inside – and my involvement in the preparation of a number of UN reports on biodiversity and ecosystem services."

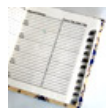
What recent bit of news inspires you: "The story of Rene Silva, a 17-year-old boy in a Rio de Janeiro favela who started a community newspaper at age 11, attracted 40,000 followers on Twitter with his reports on the recent expulsion of drug traffickers by security forces, and has mobilized media, business and political figures across Brazil to put resources into poor communities of the city. See [my blog](#) for more on this story."

On what he learnt recently: "That the jailing of an MP for an offence that in so many countries would be considered routine reflects well on the health of British democracy and public attitudes to politics."

On what he would like to connect with Fellows about: "To reconnect with current UK trends on environment and development, having broken off from the British scene when I left the BBC in 2006 – and discuss with others how my recent international insights could be of use for the progress of this agenda in coming years." [Editor's note: For more on this subject, take a look at the event in this newsletter on '21st century solutions to climate change?' [View more details](#)].

If you would like to contact Tim you can get in touch [via email](#).

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.



Connect to other Fellows today

Are you making the most of the Fellowship directory? This 'opt-in' search directory of our 27,000 strong Fellowship provides an opportunity to find other Fellows all round the world. [Register now!](#)

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.

Trouble reading this email? [View the latest and previous newsletters online](#).

Any news?

Communicating the activities of the Fellowship is the first step to strengthening 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 let us know](#).

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.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, you can [unsubscribe](#). You might miss out on the latest RSA news!

RSA

Join us on

**Wednesday 23
February, 6.30pm**



for *Is there a place for God in Education?* when the RSA and Theos bring together an expert panel to debate whether schools should "do God". [Book now](#).

Remember, you can [listen live](#) to our events, or you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events.

Filmed events are available to watch on [RSA Vision](#) or you can [download the RSA Vision app](#). Android and iPhone version now available!

USA

February is a busy month for Fellows across the US with Seattle about to be added to the list of **regional networks** meeting regularly. More details on this coming soon.



Some of the special local events for Fellows or by Fellows include:

- Dorothy Hughes' Ballet Memphis presents [Where the Girls Are](#), a ballet celebrating women.
- Lolita Jackson performs in [a jazz program](#) in Philadelphia to honor Black History Month.
- Paul Rich and the Policy Studies Organization offer the [Middle East Dialogue](#) in DC.
- For further events and discussions, please visit the [American Coffee House](#).

Contact [Lynn Broadbent](#) with any questions about Fellowship in the U.S.

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 to apply 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 the [Fellowship team](#).

