

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 7 September 2009

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News and Events



What will you do to celebrate the 255th Annual General Meeting of the RSA?

Save the date! The AGM Open Day will take place at 8 John Adam Street on **Wednesday 7 October**.

As a demonstration of shared purpose and unity, a series of FRSA-led local events and city networks will be taking place across the world from **3 -10 October 2009**.

Fellows are invited to take part in the day either by attending the House for an afternoon of seminars with the Projects Team, by attending a special event taking place worldwide, or by tuning in live online on the day. This year both the AGM and the **Chairmans Inaugural Lecture (Luke Johnson)** will be broadcasted via **Watch Live**. The AGM will start from 5.00pm GMT on **Wednesday 7 October** with the Annual Lecture to follow.

To find out what local events are taking place that week please **contact** your local Regional Network Managers. If you are interested in organising your own event or for any further information please **contact us**.



Social Media Programme: All of a Twitter

Following the **Seminar on Digital Inclusion** earlier this year we are organising a series of Social Media Surgeries for Fellows who want to learn more about social media. Beginning in Birmingham on **30 September 2009** these short, simple sessions will provide interested Fellows campaigning and communication skills for the modern age.

Taking place across the UK the programme brings together "Social Media Surgeons" paired with one or two novices seeking skills and techniques. We are interested in hearing from Fellows who:

- Are currently involved in a community project.
- Are interested in setting up a community website to help your activity achieve its aims.
- Would like to attend one of the RSA Social Media Surgeries.
- Would be interested in hosting a Social Media Surgery near you.

If you are interested in taking part or want to learn more about the programme email **Viv Long-Ferguson, RSA Senior Networks Manager** or call 07970 772439.



Community Engagement in Chelmsford Town Centre

This Fellow-led initiative will establish a forum to enable residents, businesses and local organisations to influence the future shape of **Chelmsford Town Centre**. The conference is the culmination of months of discussion, initiated by Malcolm Noble FRSA and involving Chelmsford and Essex County Councils, the Chelmsford Society and the Borough Councils. To find out how to attend this event on **Friday 11 September** and for more information on this inspiring project, [read more](#).



Campaign for Drawing

The RSA **Arts & Ecology Centre** is thrilled to have been asked to supply one of the themes for the Campaign For Drawing's massively successful Big Draw. With hundreds of events taking place nationwide between **October 1 and 30**, The Big Draw 2009 plans to get as many people as possible picking up their pencils to contribute. Would-be artists and Fellows are invited to submit their work, inspired by this year's five themes, and the results will be displayed in one of the

South

Calling all Fellows in the South East and South Central!

An online space dedicated to Fellows has now been created for both regions. Containing all the latest news and information to make those all important connections, these unique spaces are an ideal way to increase your involvement with the Fellowship! Join now at [FRSA South Central](#) and [FRSA South East](#).

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

RSA

The next RSA event to be live streamed is **Cities and Citizenship: Surviving the 21st Century** on **21 September** at 18.30. Please see [our website](#) for further event information.

Don't forget that if you cannot attend, you can always [listen live](#) to events. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events and watch filmed events on [RSA Vision](#).

You can also follow RSA Events on [Twitter](#).

London

For more information of upcoming events in the region please see the [London webpages](#).

The **Glory of Failure Colloquium** taking place on **Tuesday 15 September** still has a few spaces left so please see the [website](#) for further details.

North

The next Manchester city network takes place on **Thursday 10 September** at a new venue, the [Piccadilly Lounge](#) at City Inn Hotel, Manchester. Join us to debate, discuss and converse all things RSA and meet other Manchester Fellows. The event is free.

year's five themes, and the results will be displayed in one of the 1,000 plus participating venues. [Read More](#)



Future of the City of London

The City of London is a vital part of the UK economy, but its reputation has been severely battered by the events of the last two years. It is now at a crossroads, and answers to a number of questions need to be found if it is to remain one of the world's leading financial centres and continue to be an engine for growth in the UK. If you are interested in or involved with the UK financial services industry, please save **Tuesday 15 September 2009** as a date to attend the launch of a London based 'Future of the City' Network. We would love to see you there. For more information and how to attend this event, [read more](#).



Making a difference in the East Midlands

A reminder about the **'Open Space' event** to develop initiatives so that East Midlands Fellows can contribute to their local communities and act as leaders for positive social change. There are still a few spaces left so please [register your interest](#); you will learn about Hill Holt Wood Social Enterprise and meet like-minded Fellows. If you have wondered how you can use your skills and experience to further the objectives of the RSA this is the event for you on **1 October 2009**. For any queries please contact the organiser, **Helen Westropp FRSA**.



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.



Fellows Profile- Kate Gordon

Kate Gordon FRSA talks here about the experience of university leavers and why she went on to set up the company, idid.:

idid. create and promote international internship experiences. The aim is for students and recent graduates to go overseas, gain professional work experience in a company and return to the UK with more employability skills, intercultural awareness and communication skills.

I set up idid. in 2005 with the aim to tackle the issue many graduates face with a catch-22 situation of "you need to have a job to get experience but need experience to get a job". I knew many friends and experienced it myself, that coming out of university with a good degree, didn't guarantee a job at a level we'd expected and we needed further relevant work experience.

So idid. offers a range of programmes which offer great opportunities for students and graduates to travel yet gain professional work experience in international host companies which should hopefully stand them in a much better position for gaining employment in the UK when they return. Given the interdependent nature of the world's economy, it's arguably even more important for people to have greater international awareness and cultural understanding for the promotion of trade, ideas and knowledge exchange.

I joined the RSA as I felt that some of the aims were in line with the values of idid. Also, I felt it'd be a great platform to bounce ideas off other members, share knowledge, expertise and feedback on what we're doing. But also for me to hopefully contribute to other members' discussions and ideas as well, to further knowledge exchange and progression. **I'd be keen to hear from other Fellows** who might be interested in developing our curriculum for the programmes we offer, opportunities to try add the international dimension to the **RSA's Education Charter** and chances to raise awareness about international opportunities to young people.

If I could change something in society, then it'd be to make people more peaceful i.e. tolerant of different cultures, skin colour, religions, sexual orientation. Ultimately I believe that when people don't understand something or it's a bit "different" to what they've grown up with, then the natural reaction of a person is to be fearful. Through education, knowledge and understanding, hopefully there comes a greater sense of tolerance (and from this, flows peace).

The recent news which has inspired me is the UK government's

just come prepared to buy a drink. 5pm to 7pm. For location visit the [City Inn website](#).

For further details please contact [Viv Long-Ferguson](#) or for more information check out the [RSA Manchester site](#)

You can find details of the **Durham and Newcastle Encounter** on the Events section of the [Virtual Coffeehouse site](#). These are free informal gatherings to meet, exchange ideas and chat with other Fellows and their friends and colleagues in the local area.

East

There are now bi-monthly events in Cambridge and Norwich and monthly meetings in Chelmsford to discuss local projects. Please contact [Clare Reilly](#) or [Gladys Jones](#) with questions about any of these events.

Wales/West

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

Scotland

The City network in [Glasgow](#) will take place as usual on the second Tuesday of the month which falls on Tuesday 8 September. Please come and join us from 17.00 at [Cafe Gandolfi](#).

Please email [Judith Friedman](#) if you would like to attend or with any queries about regional activities.

International

USA

Sign up for one of the Fellowship meetings taking place **September 9 - 17** in [Chicago](#), [Chattanooga](#), [Washington DC](#), [Boston](#), [New York](#) and [San Francisco](#). You will have the opportunity to meet UK staff, US trustees and Fellowship Council members.

Visit the American Coffee House to answer the question: **Overseas Fellows – What's On Your Mind?** posted by Dave Clarke, international representative on the RSA Fellowship Council. [Pascal da Rocha](#) would be interested to learn how RSA can support his researching on Women In

The recent news which has inspired me is the UK government's support of internship programmes and encouraging firms to offer placements to students and graduates. It'd be nice to hope this gets implemented well, but time would tell and hopefully they might extend the initiative to programmes abroad as well, so diversifying the UK job market.

If you know any inspiring Fellows who would be suitable for a profile please [contact us](#) and let us know their name and details.



Next issue of the RSA e-Journal is published!

The latest e-Journal is now available. Read about the lure of party conferences, new and effective ways to provide policy solutions to drug problems, and the latest news on the RSA's project with the Barbican, on Radical Nature. The e-journal is published in addition to the print journal. Subscribe to the [RSA e-Journal](#).

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 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.

Conflict Resolution, reflecting on gender, diversity, interculturality, conflict, and conflict resolution.

Finally, tickets are now on sale at cinemas for the simulcast of the live premiere of the Age of Stupid. Visit [Age of Stupid](#) to find the nearest theatre. After seeing the film we will discuss at the American Coffee House.

Please contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), for further information.

Australia

The RSA Australia and New Zealand are establishing several new City Networks; Brisbane is the latest to be established. The first of these will be "The Art of Performance", film, music, theatre in Australia/ NZ and roles of the performing arts on **21 September** from 18.30. For more information contact [Kevin Green FRSA](#).

Should you have any queries about the networks or activities being set up, please contact [Leigh-anne Shannon](#).

Ireland

The next RSA networking event in Ireland is to be held on **17 September** at 18.00 at the [Europa Hotel](#) venue on the first floor, Great Victoria Street, Belfast. For more information please contact [Tim Walker](#).