

## Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 12 April 2010

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## News and Events

### Introducing RSA Catalyst - an RSA seed fund



**RSA Catalyst**, our exciting new seed funding initiative, is intended to encourage and inspire, to help Fellows to turn their great ideas into great social outcomes. Fellows worldwide are able to apply for Catalyst funds, to help launch new or early-stage Fellow-led projects that have a tangible social impact. [Read more...](#)



### Case Studies

Take a look at some existing Fellow-led projects. Our case studies are good examples of the types of exciting and innovative projects that RSA Catalyst could help to support. [Read more...](#)



### RSA Support

There's more to this than money. RSA Catalyst is not the only way to receive support for your projects. As a Fellow, you have access to an incredible resource; other Fellows. Our Fellowship is dynamic and diverse with an amazing range of skills, knowledge and expertise just waiting to be utilized. So why not use your skills, knowledge and expertise to support one another? [Read more...](#)



### Retirement reinvented

Not long ago, retirement meant the prospect of four or five years gentle gardening, relaxation or boredom before slipping into senility. **Retirement Reinvented** is a not-for-profit website started by Graham Ross Russell FRSA and John Whatmore FRSA. Their aim is to help retirees make better use of their experience, expertise and enthusiasm and to remain engaged with the rapidly changing world around them. [Read more...](#)



### Fellow's profile - Brian Leitch

**Brian Leitch** lives on the Thailand/Burma border and works in community development with illegal Burmese migrants. Brian facilitates a team and, alongside them, a group of organisations; developing mechanisms to prevent child abuse, improve community attitudes to education and its availability and quality, increase family financial stability through micro-finance and improve public health through better training.

On why he joined the RSA: "The questions that the RSA asks and the discussions that its Fellows have at events, explore what society could look like and how it could get there. Fellows seem, to me, to be people who are inquisitive and searching for answers to the problems and issues they see around them and, for me, answers for my own work come through tapping the knowledge and understanding of such people."

"Although people want different things from Fellowship, to me it is about being part of an organisation which is pushing for social development. It is not just about asking theoretical or philosophical questions about how things could be, but about a group of entrepreneurial, innovative individuals coming together and reality on the ground being changed and improved because of it. My contribution to Fellowship and, hopefully, society is to offer my time, experience and knowledge and join with people who are seeking practical answers to the problems around us."

On what he would change in society: "I was involved in setting up the Oasis Academy MediaCity, which opened in 2008. It was clear then that however hard we worked at setting up the Academy and

## In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

### Bath Network

The inaugural Bath Network will take place at the Royal Crescent Hotel on **Thursday 22 April** from 6.30-8pm. The Royal Crescent Hotel has also offered a special price menu should Fellows be interested in staying on for dinner. (This should be booked separately and in advance with the Hotel). Space is limited, so please [register to attend](#).



### Exeter

A regional gathering in Exeter will be held on **Tuesday 20 April** at Devon and Exeter Cathedral Close at 6pm. Tessy Britton will give updates on Fellowship Council's work and seek to understand the interests and priorities of Fellows in the South West. Please RSVP by emailing [Kevin Cahill](#) FRSA or sending a text to 07787176706.



### RSA

The **Tomorrow's Investor project**, which examines how pension schemes could deliver greater public benefit through focusing on investor value, continues with a breakfast event at John Adam Street with Keith Ambachtsheer, Director of the Rotman International Centre for Pension Management, on **Monday 26 April**. Places are limited but still available - [book now](#).



### Religion, Demography and Politics in the 21st Century

Join leading political thinker Eric Kaufmann on **Thursday 15 April** at 6pm as he examines the implications of the decline in liberal secularism, as religious conservatism rises. [Find out more and book now](#).

Alternatively you can [listen](#), or

however good the quality of the teaching, IT and other infrastructure was, without transforming not just the community's attitude to education, but also its self-belief and its vision for what its children could become, then the community would never achieve its potential. Children deserve a good education, but I wonder how society, the media and possibly their own communities mentally and emotionally help the poorest children take advantage of it."

On what has recently inspired him: "I was fortunate enough recently to be able to provide a micro-finance loan to a family from the Karen ethnic group who are starting a commercial fish farm in Thailand, the profit from which will fund health and community development work for communities in Burma that have been affected by recent conflict. They have a belief that things should be different and are working to that goal."

On connecting with other Fellows: "The work we do is somewhat like a three-dimensional tetris game. There are so many issues presenting themselves in quick succession that it's often difficult to know how to place each one, with each dependent upon another. Keeping up to speed with what people are doing or thinking in various community development fields is difficult without the casual conversations that happen within organisations, such as the RSA. There are skills, knowledge and experiences within the RSA that could affect the lives of people on the Thai/Burmese border."

Get in touch with Brian Leitch by [email](#).

### 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.

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

you can subscribe to our [podcast](#) for past events. Filmed events are available to watch on [RSA Vision](#).

### Australia

Join Roscoe Howell  at an event on Modern Day Slavery, who will be stimulating debate and discuss the potential for social action and community development to address slavery in the 21st Century, with an opportunity to meet and network with other Fellows as well. Open to Fellows and guests. It will be held at Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton, Melbourne on **21 April** at 6.30pm. Please RSVP [Leigh-Anne Shannon](#) by 19 April.

### USA

For details of upcoming events and blog discussions, please visit the [American Coffee House](#). Recent posts include: [Humanity's Greatest Asset?](#), which looks at access to information, intellectual property issues and digital privacy concerns. Paul Rich has put out a [call for proposals](#) for the next DuPont Summit: The Report Card Midstream on the Obama Administration's handling of science and technology issues, taking place later this year in Washington DC.

On **19 April**, Fellows are invited by the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress to a lunch and expert panel discussion on health care at the Library of Congress, with remarks by Senator Chris Dodd. More exciting events are planned for April - [find out more](#).

For more information, email [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director.

### 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](#).

