

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 5 October 2009

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News and Events



Reminder for AGM

A reminder to Fellows about the **255th Annual General Meeting**. We invite you to visit the House on **Wednesday, 7 October 2009** when the RSA will be alive with activity, including a series of open sessions delivered by our Projects teams.

To coincide with **activities taking place** across the world, a number of exciting programmes will be held in the House throughout the day. The day will feature the first meeting of the new **Fellowship Council**, and the **Chair's Inaugural Lecture** with RSA Chair, **Luke Johnson**. There will also be a drop-in workshop led by RSA Trustee, **Philip Goldenberg** at **16.00** in the Folkestone Room discussing the new **bye-laws**. Fellows who cannot attend on the day, can engage by registering on the **Fellowship Council site** or by watching the AGM and Chairman's Inaugural lecture via **Watch Live!**

We will be launching a new Fellowship exhibition which features the proposed text for the new **Fellowship Charter**. If you cannot visit the House you can participate **online**.

There are still places available for the project seminars so please [view the full itinerary and register your interest](#).



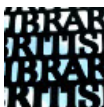
Technology in a Cold Climate

Technology in a Cold Climate is a short RSA project which brings together academic research with industry and policy experience to answer the broad question "How can technology help meet some of the challenges that the UK is facing?" Starting from four themes; public services, interconnected society, sustainable technology and supporting innovation, we have commissioned authors to research some of the latest thinking. For more information about the project, the **new blog** and how you can participate, [read more](#).



Fellows in Australia build Award-Winning Sustainable Village

"**The Chimneys**" **Sustainable Village** project on the mid-north coast of NSW in Australia is the initiative of two individuals, the owner of the site architect Ian Bailey FRSA and his partner, designer/artist Annie Georgeson FRSA. The consulting engineers for "The Chimneys" Sustainable Village have concluded that the project will cut greenhouse emissions by almost 50%, when compared with a conventional development of the same size. For further information about the village, pictures of the site and how you can get involved, please [read more](#).



Prime Thinkers event

The **British Library Business & IP Centre** will host a networking evening on **Tuesday 3 November** for RSA Fellows as an introduction to its resources, programme and networks. One of the many partners with whom the library works with is Prime Thinkers; a group of successful entrepreneurs who give time to advise young start-ups on wide ranging issues.

Come along to learn a little bit more about each organisation, and to better understand how you can participate in helping young, new and developing businesses. The event will run **18.00-20.00** and is free, with refreshments. Limited spaces available, please RSVP to [Clare Harris](#).

South

Are you missing out?

Join the **South Central** online space or **South East** online space now!

Last chance! South Central New Fellows evening tomorrow night, **Tuesday 6 October** in Henley. [Register your attendance](#).

In line with other activities going on in the Fellowship this week, **The Age of Stupid** is being screened in Brighton at **18.30, Monday 5 October** followed by networking. The event is now full but if you wish to join the waiting list please contact **Olivia Rainford**. For all other queries about the region please contact Olivia.

RSA

The **AGM** from **17.00** and the **Chairman's Inaugural Lecture, The Importance of Invention** from **18.30, on Wednesday 7 October** will be live streamed. To see these events via **Watch Live** please make sure you have **logged-on** to the website. If you have not logged-on before you need to register at least 24 hours in advance to ensure you will be able to watch these events. Please see the **FAQ's** if you have not registered before for further information.

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**.

North

A new network will be starting in this region on **Wednesday 14 October**.

This will take place in **Stockton-on-Tees** in the John Snow College Senior Common Room, Holiday Building, Queen's Campus, Durham University from **18.00 to 20.00**.

The **Teeside Encounter** is on the Events section of the **Virtual Coffeehouse site**. For further details about the



Debating Matters

The RSA is inviting Fellows to sign up as judges for this year's **Institute of Ideas** and Pfizer Debating Matters Competition. The **Debating Matters**

Competition is a National competition for sixth form students (16-18 years old).

It was set up to provide a new style of student debating which focuses on substance rather than style. One of the special features of the competition is the involvement of a panel of judges, who engage with the students throughout the debates by asking probing questions and helping them to develop and defend their arguments.

For more information on how to take part please [read more](#).



Fellow's Profile - Tris Dyson

Tris Dyson FRSA talks here about the need for community spirit:

I am a Director of Spice. **Spice** develops time credit systems that transform communities and public services by dramatically increasing the engagement and participation of local people and service-users.

[On why he joined the Fellowship] I want to meet and share ideas with progressive thinkers, plus I like the café. I would like to contribute towards the community of thinking and problem solving.

We have to be more positive and see the potential in people more. People often have problems and needs – sometimes they need help and support, but we overdo it – so that it's divisive and counter-productive. There's a tendency towards defining people and labelling sections of the population by what they can't do or by what interventions they need; whether it be black boys in schools, old people living alone, drug addicts or the white working class. People need more opportunities, and support in fulfilling their potential, but not more interventions.

I visited one of our projects last week and met a girl who has just started working on one of our time credit projects. She lives on a very troubled estate and I learned that a few years ago her father had been murdered. She told me that because of the people she had met, who had provided her with opportunities and supported her in achieving them, she had become an active and positive person, and so in September she was going to be the first person from her estate to go to university.

I have found the unrest in Iran inspiring. People must have known that the odds against it working were very high and their personal risks very real, but they got out on the street anyway. I think it'll take a long time and that change will be slow, but I hope and believe that in the longer term they can't just be swept away or ignored.

[On connecting with another Fellow] David Boyle is a man of many talents. He is a big community currency and time credit nut and author of 'Funny Money' and he's an associate at the new economics foundation. But he's also written some very popular historical novels including *Blondel's Song*.

If you know any inspiring Fellows who would be suitable for a profile 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.

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

region please contact [Judith Friedman](#).

East

The **AGM** and the **Chairman's Inaugural Lecture** will be **live-streamed** at a Fellows event taking place at Colchester United Football Club. The event will start from **16.30 on Wednesday 7 October** and local Fellows are encouraged to attend to celebrate this occasion. Please contact [Clare Reilly](#) or [Gladys Jones](#) with questions about any events in the region.

Wales/West

On **Monday 12 October** in celebration of the **AGM** you are invited to a Fellowship Forum in Colston Hall, Bristol from **18.30**, discussing how Fellows could have a positive impact on the local area. [Confirm your attendance!](#) For further activities in the region please contact [Chris Luffingham](#) or see [here](#) for more events and contacts in the area.

Scotland

A special event is taking place tonight, **Monday 5 October** at **The Melting Pot** to celebrate the **RSA AGM** and the launch of the **RSA Fellowship Council**.

The RSA/Soil Association lecture, *Food in a world without oil*, will be screened. The recently appointed Fellowship Council members from Scotland will also be present to meet with Fellows and discuss the purpose of the new Council and how it can best serve the interests of the Fellowship as a whole. [Confirm your attendance!](#)

Also taking place on **Friday 9 October** at **Woodend Barn, Banchory** is the launch of a new campaign "Go Local". For more details of this event please see the [Scotland webpages](#).

Please email [Judith Friedman](#) with any queries about regional activities.

International

USA

Drawing on the ideas and energy resulting from the September Fellowship meetings, new events and discussions are posted daily at the [American Coffee House](#).

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.

Join in the discussion on [Realizing the Potential of an Engaged Fellowship](#) or sign up for the **November 5** visit to [Sikorsky Aircraft](#), a leader in green technology. The [American Coffee House](#) is open to Fellows everywhere and anyone traveling to the US is welcome to participate in US events.

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