

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 21 March 2011

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News and Events



New RSA President

We are delighted that **HRH The Princess Royal** has agreed to succeed her father, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as RSA president.

The Princess Royal has several times visited the RSA, including in 1988 for a lecture on overseas aid in her capacity as president of the Save the Children Fund, and most recently in December of last year, when she met with Trustees and staff to discuss the Society's work in depth. In 2000, she was awarded the RSA's Albert Medal for her "many years of enthusiastically promoting and encouraging arts, manufactures and commerce through her visits programme and her dedicated work for charities". We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back to the RSA in her new role.



Fellows across the UK benefit from Catalyst grants

February's panel awarded a record amount in **Catalyst grants** to four projects from across the UK each seeking to tackle a social problem in an innovative way. Grants went to:

- o organise an event to showcase Leicester's diverse and multicultural population
- o a local consultation and online forum in Plymouth to shape planning processes to better reflect residents' interests
- o bring together women in the North East who have textile and dress-making skills to develop a social enterprise
- o develop a DIY drop-in centre in Whitechapel, London.

These and many more of the 16 projects that applied will be supported by RSA Skills Bank and the Fellowship Networks team to find Fellows to support the project. [Read more...](#)



West Network and the year ahead

On **Wednesday 23 March**, Fellows are invited to attend the first West region Network of 2011. This is a chance for Fellows across the region to come together and look back at the successful first year of RSA West. It will also be a chance to look forward to possibilities for the coming year. [Read more...](#)



Great minds have been meeting here for nearly 250 years

The Vaults restaurant is currently offering **3 courses for the price of 2**. We create impressive food and exhilarating surroundings, you bring the conversation. Great minds have been meeting here for nearly 250 years, so make it a long lunch!

The Vaults restaurant is open for lunch from Monday-Friday. The offer ends 28 April 2011. To be eligible for this offer quote 3 for 2 when making your booking. View the latest menu and [pre book online](#). Email [the Vaults restaurant](#) or phone on 020 7920 5115.



Fellow's Profile - Mike Sarna

Mike Sarna FRSA works in the **Natural History Museum**, London. He talks here about his inspirations and what he would like from Fellowship:

"I am the Head of Interpretation and Design for the Natural History Museum and lead the team that creates exhibitions. It's an incredible responsibility that takes me on a daily journey of discovery. My aim is to transform the visitor's experience from passive appreciation to active engagement in the natural world

In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

AGM 2011

The 2011 AGM will be held in the Great Room on **Wednesday 5 October 2011**.

Surrey Network On Thursday 31 March



we will be returning to our theme of Sustainable Living with a special joint event with the Guildford Environmental Forum. Dr Alex Penn, an experienced permaculture teacher, designer and professional biologist, will be leading a workshop to introduce the idea of growing food using permaculture techniques. This method of growing food sustainably is rapidly increasing in popularity – in fact, we already have a Fellows' network in Cumbria working on these principles. [Book your place now.](#)

RSA Comment

RSA Comment was created to respond to Fellows' suggestions for a space where they and others could share their views about the 'live' issues of the day. The latest article is [An RSA Family of Schools?](#) by Professor Becky Francis. Visit [RSA Comment](#).

Sheffield



Join us at the next Sheffield network **Wednesday 13 April, 6pm** at [The Showroom](#) where Paul Thomas FRSA will set the scene for us to discuss: *Local Enterprise Partnerships: will they make a real difference?*

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are the Coalition Government's new idea to take over from regional development agencies and to promote the economic development of

personal appreciation to create engagement in the natural world. Years ago, a young girl and her mother travelled seven hours to see an installation I created about forensic entomology. Her mother looked on in horror as the girl collected beetles off a rotting pig carcass to examine them more closely (we had six carcasses in various states of decomposition on the museum lawn). Has that girl become an entomologist or does she just have a slightly better knowledge of bugs? Every museum convert makes me gush with pride be the inspiration small or large."

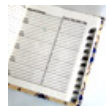
"This year I became a Clore fellow and began exploring my leadership potential in the cultural arts sector. Joining as an RSA Fellow is part of my learning journey. I'm interested in the wonderful network that the RSA provides. I am hoping that the RSA will serve as a "sounding board" and act as a starting point to discuss and shape new ideas. I invite you as part of my journey to give me a call, have a rant, tell me what you think and hopefully find creative ways forward."

"While working at the Natural History Museum, I have the privilege of working with some amazing and inspiring scientists. I recently learnt that chimpanzees produce a great deal of sperm. Some to fertilise the female's egg, but some that forms a barrier that prevents a rival's sperm from getting through. As a result, chimpanzees have very large testicles. I just reread my previous responses and things were just getting a bit too serious. I have recently been working on an exhibition about how sex drives evolution. [Sexual Nature](#) opened in February."

"Working at the Natural History Museum, you might expect me to take long walks in the country on weekends; however, I am a bit of a dichotomy in my working circles. While I have a huge appreciation for the natural world, I also love urban environs. I am motivated to find greater sustainability methods and have led on building greener exhibitions for museums. I am keen for our guests to share this enthusiasm and realise they can positively impact nature even in cities. Now that the "boom or bust" pendulum has swung to bust, I am interested in finding inroads that get us away from consumption fuelled economics."

If you would like to contact Mike on any of the above issues, you can get in touch [by 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!

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economic development of their areas. In the case of the Sheffield area, this involves a shift from a Yorkshire region and South Yorkshire-based view of the world to one focusing on the Sheffield City Region. At the meeting we will hear about how the [Sheffield City Region LEP](#) is shaping up. To book your place contact [Jenny Bland FRSA](#).

RSA

Join us on

Wednesday 6 April, 1pm for [The Secret](#)



[Life of the Grown-Up Brain](#) as New York Times health and science editor Barbara Strauch reveals that the middle-aged brain is more flexible, more capable and more surprisingly talented than previously thought. [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

Meetings and topics coming soon on the



[American Coffee House](#) include healthcare reform in New England, climate change in New York, work in underserved communities in Chattanooga, and corporate social responsibility in New Haven. There are also special opportunities offered for Fellows by Fellows around the country, such as the [Art Science Conferences](#) in Washington DC, Chicago and San Diego, the [Drugs Policy forum](#) in Chicago, research on [emotional health and body image](#) in San Francisco, and [Obtuse Angles](#), a free online resource for entrepreneurs.

Finally, the RSA-US Board of Trustees has elected four new members while several long serving members have accepted ex-officio appointments. For details of the current and ex officio US Trustees, read Matthew Taylor's [note of thanks](#). Contact [Lynn Broadbent](#) for further information.

Nominate a Friend

Do you know someone who should be a Fellow?

[Tell us who and why](#), and

we'll send an invitation to



we'll send an invitation to apply citing your recommendation. Please note, you will need to log-in and have your membership number to complete the online form. Alternatively you can contact the [Fellowship team](#).