

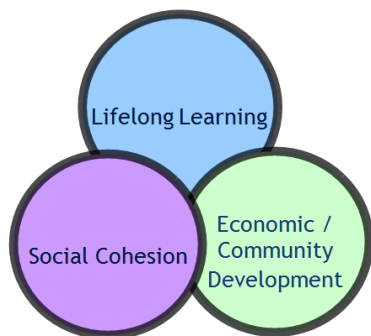
RSA Scotland – Strategic Plan

Frances Gallagher FRSA Chair RSA Scotland shares the strategy for Scotland

RSA Scotland now has an agreed strategy which will guide events and meetings in Scotland over the next two years and beyond.

Frances Gallagher, Chair RSA Scotland, would like to thank Jane Kille, Deputy Chair, and the RSA Scotland Committee, for their positive contribution to the Strategic Plan. Thanks are also due to Michael Ambjorn, Head of Fellowship Networks and Jamie Cooke, Network Manager.

The Strategic Plan features three focal area (see inset), in which we, as the RSA Scotland Committee, have agreed to engage. All of our activities will relate to these key spheres and therefore give a sense of purpose to our actions as well as presenting a Narrative to what we do in Scotland.



Activities linked to our Strategy.

Lifelong Learning

RSA Scotland is **collaborating** with Edinburgh University's Institute of Advanced studies in two important events.

- **A Celebration of Hume's Birthday** – a panel discussion chaired by **Sheena McDonald** on April 26th in George Square in Edinburgh. [Booking](#)
- **David Hume in the Borders** - Led by Dr Fenton Robb FRSA 21 May at Paxton House. [Booking](#)
- A lecture by **Prof Amartya SEN** from Harvard on 18 July in the Assembly Rooms. [Booking](#)

Further, RSA Scotland Committee is now planning for the **International Book Festival** and the **Festival of Politics**. Full details in the Summer Newsletter.

Later in the year the **Angus Millar lecture** will take place as a joint venture between RSA Scotland and RSA JAS.

Social Cohesion

Amongst other things, **Mentoring** is being offered to a variety of charitable organisations. This is helped by Fellows having their details on the [Skills Bank of RSA](#).

Our **Network Review** by Rob Wherrett will provide an insight into how RSA Scotland's Networks might impact on Social Cohesion. We look forward to this report to inform the forward plan for both City and Regional Networks in Scotland.

Economic / Community Development

The [Venture fund](#) and the [Catalyst fund](#) can be used by Fellows to link into projects that will enhance community and Fellowship engagement. Fellows can lead projects and apply for funding from either, or both, of these funds. The Bothwell Growers Organic Garden (pictured) is one example of this. A full report by Susan Fotheringham FRSA on this venture-funded project will appear in the next edition.



Call to Fellows

The Scottish Committee is keen to hear from the wider Scottish Fellowship. If you would like to contribute to the RSA Scotland's strategic vision or be involved in its implementation, please be in touch with: Frances Gallagher fcag2001@gmail.com or David Miller dmiller@ntlworld.com - Newsletter Editor.

The **Governance Advisory Group** will report in June and we will let you know the outcome of their deliberations as soon as it is accepted by Fellowship Council and the Trustees.

The RSA Scotland Committee wishes to record its delight that **HRH The Princess Royal** has agreed to succeed her father, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, as RSA President.



RSA President's Lecture HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presiding.

The Great Room, John Adam Street, March 2011



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was in sparkling form and presided with humour and focus. He also entertained the

audience with pertinent and personal stories of the Empire and more modern times.

Sir David Attenborough was the guest speaker for this final event of HRH Prince Philip's 59-year Presidency.

Taking the audience through a warm and colourful word and picture presentation, Sir David explored the essential need for both plant and animal conservation, now more than ever.

His key message was that unless the world's population is controlled, mankind will overrun itself with the demands of urban living and thereby



seriously endanger the ecological balance of the planet. The talk generated a most interesting exchange of questions and answers, to which both HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and Sir David responded.

The talk was streamed live in collaboration with the Caledonian University, Glasgow for Fellows, friends and colleagues in Scotland.

We as part of the RSA are hugely indebted to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh for his sterling Service over the years and we wish him well in his years to come.

RSA Fellows' Media, Creative Industries, Culture & Heritage Network

Whilst a meeting or meetings may yet be set up for May, Fellows are invited to note:

13 June - Edinburgh - Economics, Internet & Society: Event Two (2pm to 6pm, optional reception to 7pm)

14 June - Edinburgh - Culture & Heritage: A Museum Perspective (Title and time tbc, 6.15pm or 6.30pm)

New Fellows Reception

Scottish Book Trust, Edinburgh March 2011

RSA Scotland recently held a very vibrant and exciting Reception for New Fellows of RSA in the premises of the [Scottish Book Trust](#), High Street, Edinburgh. This is a



must see venue with a super atmosphere and delightful support from SBT staff.

Matthew Taylor CEO was gracious in his presence and very interesting in his deliberations and networking. It was good to see Matthew North again and as always we are delighted that he joined us for this event.

The Event was held in the Scottish Book Trust in Edinburgh, and we would like to thank its Director, **Marc Lambert FRSA**, and his team for the excellent cooperation given to us in the organisation and running of this event.

Frances Gallagher Chair RSA Scotland warmly welcomed everyone to the reception and expressed her hopes and aspirations for an increased engagement within Scotland. She urged Fellows to consider Fellow-led projects taking advantage of the [Venture Fund](#) and the [Catalyst Fund](#) – both sources of some funding for start up projects.

Matthew Taylor expressed his delight at being with us in Scotland and, in particular, the city of Edinburgh - cradle of the Scottish Enlightenment. He gave sincere encouragement to Fellows to ensure 21ST Century Enlightenment was the modus operandi of Scottish Fellows.



He spoke about the importance of the international aspect of RSA as well as his aspirations for Fellowship which contributes vigorously to social cohesion.

Thank you to all the Scottish Committee who attended, especially June Edgar and Jamie Cooke, Network Manager, for the organisation. Catering was superb from [Galway Gourmet!](#)

What ideas do YOU have to change society for the better?

Please be in touch with Frances Gallagher –

fcaq2001@googlemail.com – or any member of the Scottish Committee via emails on last page.

Curriculum for Excellence and the Modern World

Keir Bloomer FRSA writes ...



In the modern world, knowledge is more necessary than ever - but it is not enough. Schools need to equip young people to put their knowledge to practical use. This involves understanding and the skills to apply knowledge. In short, education has to be about 'deep learning' that goes far beyond the acquisition of factual information and simple routines.

This idea is central to the philosophy of 'Curriculum for Excellence', the programme of educational change that Scotland has been committed to for more than six years.

Despite its title, it is not a curriculum in the traditional sense of being a catalogue of content to be covered. Indeed, changes in content are only a relatively minor part of the programme. Rather it is intended to set a long-term sense of direction to guide development over many years. It establishes an overall objective - that education should enable young people to become 'successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens' - and describes seven curriculum principles that can be used to achieve it. Some of these principles such as 'breadth' are long standing. Others such as 'depth' and 'personalisation' are new and potentially highly challenging.

In practice, it has proved extremely difficult to keep the 'big picture' constantly in mind. Too many teachers have come to see Curriculum for Excellence as being about minor changes, particularly in areas such as assessment. Too many, indeed, have adopted such a narrow view of the programme that they feel able to say 'we are doing it all already'.

If Curriculum for Excellence is properly understood as a long-term programme of change that may be gradual but will ultimately be transformative, one thing is certain. Nobody is doing it all already.

In its attempt to restore a broader vision to the programme, the Scottish Government set up in 2010 a number of 'Excellence Groups' each concerned with looking at what would constitute excellence in their area of responsibility. Most of these groups focused on a single

subject area or on a group of related subjects (such as the various sciences). One, however, was concerned with

'higher order skills'. In essence, this group had the task of trying to describe how schools might tackle the task implied in the opening paragraph of this article. How is it possible to continue to make young people informed and knowledgeable but, at the same time, help them cultivate genuine understanding and develop the skills needed to use learning effectively?

This is a complex question and the Excellence Group's report, published in March of this year, scarcely scratches the surface of the answer. Its main recommendation is that 'deep learning' should be acknowledged as the central principle of all Curriculum for Excellence development work. This would have, among other benefits, the great advantage of giving the whole programme a coherence and overall sense of purpose that it currently lacks. Even more importantly, it would underline that Curriculum for Excellence needs to be seen as Scotland's educational response to global change. It has to fulfil both an economic and a social mission. 'Deep learning' is fundamental both to future economic competitiveness and to the even more difficult and necessary task of helping young people to develop the confidence and skills to cope with constant change and to constitute the informed and critical citizenry that a modern democracy requires.

Ultimately, the success or failure of Curriculum for Excellence rests on how it measures up to these challenges.

Keir Bloomer FRSA is an Independent Education Consultant and Chair of Higher Order Skills Excellence Group.

Digital Engagement

As a member of the RSA's Digital Engagement Group, David Miller FRSA is keen to hear from Scottish Fellows who would like to contribute ideas or explore opportunities for Digital Engagement. The [#RSAdigital Group](#)'s priority objective is to ensure that FRSA communications (including networking and collaboration) are maximised through digital and social media. As part of its remit, the group has produced an on-line [Guide to Digital Engagement](#) which Fellows are encouraged to visit.

If you would like to hear more about, or contribute to, this aspect of the RSA's activities, please be in touch with David Miller at dmiller@ntlworld.com.

V&A at Dundee presents

KENGO KUMA - The Answer is Architecture!

Saturday 21st May 2011

12.30pm Dalhousie Building - Old Hawkhill

Can a building enhance our relationship with the environment rather than detracting from it? In this exclusive lecture, his first in Scotland, award-winning architect Kengo Kuma will explore the role that architecture has in connecting people to their environment. Kengo Kuma is the lead architect for the new V&A at Dundee building and a Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Tokyo. He holds the prestigious Architectural Institute of Japan Award (1997).

www.VandAatDundee.com

An RSA Tayside supported event.

Tickets are available from events@dundee.ac.uk, 01382 385564 or: <http://goo.gl/F7tyR>

Greetings from the United States!

Lynn Broadbent - RSA-US Fellowship Director writes ...

American networks are going from strength to strength in many regions of the US. Some of the Spring highlights include:

- a presentation in Boston from Harvard Associate and RSA Fellow, Sophia Parker, on Poverty and Public Policy;
- a new Ning discussion group set up by New York Fellows exploring Zero Waste in Fashion; Going Green in Bronxville; and the potential of Crowd Sourcing;
- conferences on the Art of Science Learning in Washington DC, Chicago, and San Diego;
- a three year Children's Art Program in the Southeast, thanks in part to a Catalyst grant awarded to the Chattanooga group.

I invite you all to visit [The American Coffee House](http://TheAmericanCoffeeHouse.com) or email LBroadbent@rsa-us.org

Robin Thomson FRSA from New York writes ...

Frances Gallagher's presentation - 'Taking Education out of the Silos' - to the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development in New York University was extremely well received. It included a fascinating discussion on the development and acquisition of Scientific Literacy via an understanding of Food Skills. Professor Cecily Selby FRSA, formerly of New York University, said how interesting it was to hear about the synergies and challenges in Education in both our countries.

Dear Diary ...

April	26	A Celebration of Hume's Birthday – a panel discussion chaired by Sheena McDonald in George Square in Edinburgh 18.00
	28	Edinburgh Network - Le Monde 17:00-20:00
May	10	Glasgow Network - Cafe Gandolfi 17.30-19.30
	12	RSA Scotland Committee Meeting, Edinburgh
	21	David Hume in the Borders, Paxton House 11.30
	21	KENGO KUMA V&A Dundee 12.30pm Dalhousie Building - Old Hawkhill
June	24	Edinburgh Network - Le Monde 17:00-20:00
	14	Glasgow Network - Cafe Gandolfi 17.30-19.30
	21	Mid-Summer BBQ - Iain Scott FRSA Hotel du Vin Glasgow 5.00 - 8.30
	30	Edinburgh Network - Le Monde 17:00-20:00
Plus		Highland Network events to be announced.

Many thanks to all those who contributed articles and features. If you would like to contribute to the Autumn Newsletter, do please contact David Miller:

dmiller@ntlworld.com .

RSA Scotland Committee 2011

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