



## Developing our Region

We have continued in 2009 with a strong programme of events, both achieved and planned. For this, my thanks go to the various Local Event Group organisers and committees.

One aspect that I felt your regional Committee had to address was how to develop the region for the future. To address this, the committee held a strategy away day in late January. What emerged from this was a recognition that the focus of our regional activities should be expanded to include:

- events
- encouraging/fostering new local groups
- facilitating local initiatives.

Events provide fellowship and informative activities for Fellows and also help develop regional income. We also felt that it was important that Fellows in local areas develop initiatives which foster positive change in our society – our region should be able to encourage both the 'talking' and the 'doing'.

One example of the 'doing' has occurred in Salisbury, the venue for our annual dinner, and similar local groups have been established in Oxford, Chichester and Portsmouth. For each, the initiatives they are considering are priorities for their own area and each set of objectives may be different.

To help get these local groups started, we recognise there may be some obstacles. The first may be to provide some form of focus for local Fellows. The second may be to help these Fellows understand how they can network effectively and bring in influential third parties to make their initiatives more successful. The third may be that familiar obstacle, money.

To help Fellows overcome these obstacles, we are planning to provide initial meetings of Fellows in conurbations within the region and to hold workshops for interested Fellows to help them develop networking skills and techniques. Lastly, we will be asking the next AGM to approve setting up a Social Innovation Fund of some £5,000, to which Fellows can apply for seed corn funding to help start up local initiatives.

To move this range of activities forward, we do need more Fellows willing to participate in their organisation, either on the local committees or the Regional Committee. I will be writing shortly to ask those Fellows interested in joining the Regional Committee to put their names forward as nominations at the AGM – I do hope you will consider doing so.

Tony Hoskins, Chairman

## What's On at a glance

19 Jun - Kensham Farm & 21st Century farming - Thames Valley  
Email: [slbreibart@tsocommunication.com](mailto:slbreibart@tsocommunication.com) more on pg2

23 Jun - BBC Southampton visit - FULLY BOOKED

1 Jul - White Waltham Airfield - Maidenhead, Berkshire  
This is one of the oldest airfields in the country and is currently a civilian airfield, home of the West London Aero Club, the event hosts. The visit will begin with a brief talk by the Airfield Manager, followed by a conducted tour of the airfield. There will also be a talk on aerobatic flying.  
Email: [Berkshireslbreibart@tsocommunication.com](mailto:Berkshireslbreibart@tsocommunication.com)

4 Jul - RSA South Central AGM, Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire  
Email: [greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk) more on pg2

14 Jul - Summer social, Sculpture Garden, Broughton, Hampshire  
Email: [greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk) more on pg2

27 Jul - Tour/discussion on ship building, Portsmouth, Hampshire

24 Sep - Eco-communities discussion, Portsmouth, Hampshire

22 Oct - Burnham Beeches conservation – guided walk, Buckinghamshire. This is one of the best examples of ancient woodland in Britain and covers 540 acres of land. It has been wooded since the last Ice Age

29 Oct - 21st Century education, Portsmouth

As event plans are finalised, full details and booking forms will be posted at the South Central Region web pages:  
[www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central](http://www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central)

We are looking for images depicting our region to use on the top of the masthead of our next newsletter. These need to be in a digital format, high resolution and ideally 300 dpi and suitable to use when converted to black and white. Please send contributions to the Editor marked 'RSA SC Newsletter photos' (email details on back page). This edition features Emsworth Harbour, Hampshire © Inilan 2009

## RSA South Central forthcoming events

### Tony Hoskins invites Fellows to come and enjoy events in the Thames Valley

**Myze Farm and Kensham Farm** - come and join us for a walk and discussion on 21st century agriculture as well as an afternoon tour in West Wycombe on 19 June. Kensham Farm has been farmed by the same Fellow since 1955 and has expanded in size from 102 acres to 1,900 acres of Chiltern Hills land today.

During the visit there will be an explanation of the changes which have taken place in agriculture over the past 50 years, including Kensham Farm's current arable cropping and the modern use of seeds, fertiliser, crop protection chemicals and farm machinery used in the crop's production.

In addition over this time, farms have felt the need to have a diversified portfolio of businesses. Visitors will be shown these diversified enterprises, including craft workshops, radio aerial masts and facilities for horse riders, and there will be a discussion about the part such enterprises play in Britain's modern agriculture. Booking forms are on the website. For more details contact the organiser [slbreibart@tsocommunication.com](mailto:slbreibart@tsocommunication.com)

**Mapledurham House** - Fellows were able to take part in a tour of this famous property at the beginning of June. Mapledurham, on the river just west of Reading, dates from Doomsday as two

manors. The House has a wonderful history and was restored in 1960 to be once again a family home. It has also one of the few working watermills on the Thames and was featured in the 1970s film, 'The Eagle Has Landed'. The tour included the watermill and the Elizabethan Mansion, followed by a cream tea with scones made from the flour from the watermill.

#### Autumn events

Future events currently in the advanced planning stage include:

- an afternoon tour of Cliveden, the National Trust's magnificent formal gardens overlooking the River Thames, once the exclusive haunt of the rich and famous. It is anticipated this event will run in September 2009.

- an afternoon's guided tour of Burnham Beeches, owned by the City of London, to view the copper beeches and discuss the conservation issues surrounding this ancient woodland. Provisional date 22 October

- an evening visit to Oxfam's Logistics Warehouse at Bicester, where all its humanitarian aid for emergency disasters is handled.

## Garden delights and conversation

RSA Fellows and guests are warmly invited to an informal social gathering involving RSA Fellows from across Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex and Wiltshire on 14 July 2009.

Rachel Bebb FRSA, garden designer, will be throwing open her splendid garden to enable Fellows to take a summery glass of Pimms or a non-alcoholic spritzer and enjoy each other's company. The venue is located at The Garden Gallery, Broughton, Hampshire SO20 8AZ.

Broughton village is in the Test Valley to the north of Romsey and to the west of Stockbridge. Detailed travel directions will be provided on receipt of a completed booking form. Tickets for the event are £10 to include refreshment. The event will begin at 6.30pm and finish by 9pm. Booking forms can be downloaded from the website or contact: Greg Slay, Secretary, RSA South Central, 7 Dolphin Close, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 3QP or email: [greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk)

[www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central](http://www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central)

## South Central Region celebrates at Salisbury

The annual dinner, which took place in April at Salisbury Cathedral Refectory, brought together Fellows from across the region.

The Chairman Tony Hoskins FRSA welcomed Fellows and their guests and took the opportunity to outline the imaginative initiatives being undertaken in the region. He also thanked all the committee members for their services on behalf of the Fellowship. Discussion at the tables during the black tie dinner included an exploration of the challenges and opportunities for the RSA in coming years.

## Eton College welcomes Fellows for Annual General Meeting and tour

RSA Fellows will be able to enjoy a rare opportunity to visit the world famous Eton College, Windsor and discover some of its hidden treasures.

The Annual General Meeting of the South Central Region will be held in the Upper School Room of Eton College on Saturday 4 July 2009 at 11am. Refreshments will be available from 10.30am. After the meeting, at 12 noon, there will be a one hour conducted tour of the chapel, 15th century School Room and the Museum of Eton Life.

As numbers are needed for the tour, Fellows are asked to book places in advance.

Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in 1440. Lower School is reputedly the oldest schoolroom in the world and has been in continuous use from 1443. The panelling in Upper School, a Restoration classroom interior, is entirely covered with the pupils' graffiti. The school library includes a Gutenberg Bible in its collection. Photography is permitted except in the College chapel or in the Museum of Eton Life. The school is located in Berkshire.

There will be no charge for attending this event. Lunch is not provided but can be taken locally in Windsor or Fellows can bring a picnic to enjoy in the school's grounds adjoining the River Thames.

Travel directions and parking arrangements will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form. If you have not received a booking form already, one can be downloaded from the RSA South Central website (address on pg1) or obtained via Greg Slay, RSA South Central, 7 Dolphin Close, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 3QP or email: [greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:greg.slay@westsussex.gov.uk)

### Winchester College explored

Some 30 Fellows and guests were privileged to tour a college which has been running since the 14th Century.

The tour of Winchester College was led by David Fellowes, Head of the Winchester College Society. The College was founded in 1382 by William of Wykeham, and has the longest unbroken history of any school in the country, still using most of the original buildings. Its original purpose was to provide for the education of 70 scholars to help increase the number of educated priests in church and government to compensate for those lost to the Black Death.

Fellows were shown the Scholars' rather bare and primitive accommodation, with the enclosed cupboards or booths known as toys (from the Flemish for fathom - the cupboards are 6ft high), where the boys worked. Academic standards for the Scholars were extremely high. The College now educates about 700 boys. Its grounds include 93 listed buildings.

During the tour in April, Fellows were able to admire the beautiful chapel with its large stained glass window. The glass is not the original: this was removed in about 1800 for cleaning but could not be put together again and had to be remade. A small panel, made from pieces saved from the original, has been preserved.

Winchester College has a choir which sings at services in the chapel. There are 16 Quiristers who form the treble line, making a choir of 35-40 in total.

The Cloisters contain many memorials to Wykehamists, among them George Mallory and Field Marshall Earl Wavell. Most moving was the visit to the War Cloister, a memorial to the dead of both world wars, and first dedicated in 1924. More than 500 Wykehamists were killed in the First World War and 250 in World War II. A ceremony is held here every Remembrance Sunday.

Fellows had the unusual privilege of a visit to the Muniments Room, where William of Wykeham's original documents relating to the College are kept and the manuscript of the Royal Licence granting permission to build, signed by Richard II. The Eccles Library also featured on the visit which contains many beautifully illustrated manuscripts, some dating from the 12th century, as well as a fine set of Sir Joseph Banks Florilegium - 743 handcoloured plates of the plants discovered on Captain Cook's first navigation in the Endeavour.

Hilary Carrington FRSA

### Theatre Royal Portsmouth

#### Theatre for the community

'Community. Excellence. Celebration.' is the strapline for Collective Artistes, an international Black ensemble, as they describe themselves, committed to producing culturally diverse, professional and community theatre of social concern. Such a company might seem to fit more easily into the London fringe than a 'traditional' Portsmouth theatre. The company and the piece they performed fit very well with Caroline Sharman, the theatre's Director's philosophy of bringing theatre to the local community and the local community into the theatre.

#### The theatre itself

RSA Fellows enjoyed an instructive evening in that theatre. Caroline talked about the history of the theatre from its construction by Matcham in the 19th century. A true Victorian, Matcham built a theatre which is ornately elegant, like the London Palladium, another of his creations. It is cunningly constructed, with a slightly domed ceiling, which carries the sound from the stage round and back into the audience. The theatre has been through a series of triumphs, neglect and fire, until 2004, when a special project to restore it was launched.

Much remains to be done, but the link with Portsmouth University and various

other sponsors means the project can continue. We were shown round the theatre by Liz Weston, the Outreach Officer, and introduced to the cast, a company of knowledgeable and enthusiastic actors, who obviously believe fervently in their 'mission'. Their performances were excellent.

#### The play

The play, by Carlyle Brown, is entitled 'The African Company presents Richard III', and therein lies a difficulty. What is it about? A black African company playing Shakespeare? In a sense, yes, except that the 'company' is American, playing Shakespeare in 1821, rivals to a white company performing Richard III next door. The play deals with the struggles of the African Company who represent images of themselves as kings and queens, as men and women overcoming adversity, a most daring thing to do at the time. Unhappily the African Company did not survive - white supremacy reigned.

We are still fighting prejudice to this day. As the programme note says, "The African Company has thrown down the gauntlet - now it is up to us to continue their journey." The visit was held at the end of February.

Vera Hughes FRSA

### City growth and Portsmouth

Deer Park Alpha's Carl Leroy-Smith spoke to the Chichester and Portsmouth Royal Society of Arts Local Events Group at the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club in Portsmouth.

Carl gave a talk on a vision for Portsmouth that connects communities and focuses on making a 'liveable' city. He used John Ruskin's five 'life' virtues: kindness, curiosity, sensitivity, humility and intelligence to explain why Portsmouth, and perhaps society as a whole needs to change its vision for how people live. Carl also explained his ideas for a city where Dry Canals, free from cars, are used to navigate and enjoy the city.

Event organiser Tim Lines FRSA said: "Carl Leroy-Smith delivered an extremely well received presentation entitled "City Growth, Portsmouth: A Dense Liveable City with Dry Canals" to 35 Fellows and guests of the Royal Society of Arts. The presentation analysed in harsh and visual detail some of the failings of the current city, and how some of the post-war thinking had contributed to this, though balanced by some very positive developments in infrastructure and social development and greater consultation between authorities and city users.

"Carl then proposed some quite visionary initiatives ranging from relatively easy step-wise improvement to highly ambitious radical transformation of the quality of the lives of its residents, and the attractiveness of the city to businesses and visitors. He drew widely from international and national experience, both exemplary and bad, and illustrated these superbly with images. The presentation prompted a great deal of audience response both during and after the presentation."

The event took place at the end of March.

Greg Slay FRSA

### Visit to the Sir Alfred Dunn School of Pathology

The visit to the School in Oxford enabled Fellows to hear from its Director, Professor Herman Waldmann about its current work and from its unofficial historian, Dr Eric Sidebottom, about one of its earliest triumphs, the development of penicillin.

Professor Waldmann explained the work he has been doing. It involves the important area of diseases which are based upon the body's auto-immune system, such as Multiple Sclerosis and Diabetes. These illnesses are caused by the body becoming reactive to itself and then damaging its own fabric. His research has been to devise methods to teach the body to circumvent its own auto-immune system which is doing the harm. His work, with his team at the Dunn School, has already found results which hold great promise and may lead to cures. It was exciting to hear of such important work from one of its prime scientific creators.

Dr Sidebottom went on to talk about the discovery and eventual exploitation of penicillin. He told Fellows that following Fleming's accidental discovery of penicillin while working at London University, more than 12 years passed before Professors Chain and Florey at the Dunn School of Pathology, realising its importance, continued its development and eventual introduction of it to the world where it has saved so many lives over the ensuing decades.

The visit ended with a tour of the delightful 1930s Queen Anne architecture building, visiting the very laboratories which were used to develop the penicillin manufacturing systems.

Cyril Levicki FRSA

[www.thersa.org/fellowship/  
regions-and-worldwide/  
South-Central](http://www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central)

### Energy from the oceans

Professor AbuBakr Bahaj reprised his 2007 RSA President's lecture to an audience of more than 100 Fellows and guests at Southampton University in March. He started by summarising the issues driving the search for renewable energy sources, the Government commitments for renewable generation capacity, CO2 reduction, diminishing oil and gas reserves and security of fuel supplies. Available sources of renewable energy are the sun, wind, waves, tidal streams, tidal rise and geothermal heat. The energy in an hour of sunlight is sufficient for our needs for a year. Capturing that energy is the problem.

Windpower is now established and the technology standardised but its output is variable and uncertain. Britain and Ireland have the majority of the potential wave energy available to Europe. However, it is at a maximum many miles off our west coast which poses operational and electrical transmission problems. Wave and tidal power generation is still evolving in the search for practical solutions. Professor Bahaj showed and described many of the significant devices for capturing wave and tidal stream power, including Pulamis and the Anaconda which are wave generation devices.

Tidal energy is highly predictable once the basic data has been obtained. This data provides developers and investors with certainty of output and income. However, the capital and operating costs per unit of both wave and tidal power are still far in excess of those of conventional generation. Technological improvements, standardisation of the technology and installed capacity levels approaching those of conventional generation are required to bring costs down to acceptable levels. It seems unlikely that wave or tidal generation can each provide much more than 10 per cent of UK demand for electricity.

A more detailed article on this lecture is available on the RSA South Central website at: [www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central](http://www.thersa.org/fellowship/regions-and-worldwide/South-Central)  
Steuart Thompson FRSA

---

### Social networking advice and support offered by Fellows

Do you know a twitter from a blog or a ning? The regional committee is supporting a new group, Social Spaces, looking at ways of increasing the capacity within the Fellowship to create new groups, discussions forums or new projects. In order to do this Social Spaces aims to provide expertise training and mentorship to Fellows. This will include:

- digital mentorship: nings, blogs, twitter, eventbrite... many of which are freely available social media software and platforms
- participatory formats: Open Space, Open Mic, Speed Dating Networking, workshops, social reporting, Barcamps
- Community Building and engagement knowledge and skills (on and offline)
- deliberate Network

Weaving Strategies  
- practical processes  
- sharing of learning and practice.

Tessy Britton FRSA said: "Although many Fellows want to get active and involved they lack all round expertise in participatory practices. There is a group of Fellows who are highly skilled in these areas, who wish to contribute and are fascinated with networks and participatory culture development. There are also non-Fellows who may wish to be involved voluntarily with this group to expand their own learning opportunities."

She added: "People learn better from people rather than booklets."

For more information contact Tessy Britton at: [britton100@btinternet.com](mailto:britton100@btinternet.com)

### Other regional highlights

A visit to the BBC in Southampton in May proved so popular that a second event date was planned for 23 June. Places for this event are already all booked. More details on this event in the next newsletter.

The South Central Andrew Chamblin Memorial Lecture and Concert at the beginning of May was given by the internationally renowned organist Dr Jennifer Bate OBE FRCO in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. She played an hour-long programme of organ works by Bach, Buxtehude and Mendelssohn. This was the third annual memorial concert.

The Memorial Lecture, entitled 'How Many Universes Are There?' was given by Professor Paul Davies at Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.

If you have a suggestion for an event or have particularly enjoyed one you have attended, contact the RSA South Central Committee.

We value your feedback.