

## Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 20 April 2009

Welcome to the next edition of the fortnightly Fellowship newsletter, a regular insight into the various activities, projects and events that are happening throughout the RSA Fellowship network.

## News and Events



### Introducing the New Fellowship Council

Important and exciting changes are planned for the governance of the RSA, with the introduction of the new Fellowship Council. The new Council will represent the interests of the Fellowship, help Fellows to work with the RSA in the development of projects and activities, and work to ensure that Fellows' projects are aligned with the charitable aims of the Society. An early task for the Fellowship Council will be to agree a new Fellows' Charter that will outline the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of Fellowship.

Would you like to put yourself forward? We need your skills and expertise. [Find out more information or nominate yourself.](#)



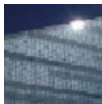
### Fellows' Self Organising Guidelines

In order to help encourage Fellows to get together, collaborate and innovate, the RSA has revised its guidelines on Fellow-led special interest groups and local networks. These guidelines have been approved by the RSA Trustee Board. [View further information on these guidelines.](#)



### Chelmsford Fellows Project

A group of RSA Fellows are working to influence plans for the redevelopment of Chelmsford Town Centre. They want to positively influence the city council's plans and invite RSA Fellows everywhere to go on a tour of the Town Centre re-development sites on Wednesday 6th May. Everyone will have the opportunity to share their views and shape the way forward for the new town centre plan, so come along and support this venture by actively taking part. [Please view the article for more information and to book your place.](#)



### Fellows in Manchester inform discussion on the Northwest Regional Development Agency's Strategy

Last month a group of Fellows met at Urbis at the Manchester City Network to participate in a discussion about the strategy of the Northwest Regional Development Agency. Fellows are encouraged to contribute to the consultation process which is closing on 30 April. [View further details about the discussion.](#)



### Fellow's Profile

RSA Fellow, Vivien Johnston is founder of ethical jewellery label, Fifi Bijoux. She only uses materials sourced from carefully selected suppliers and the gold and gems come from mines which uphold a fair trade policy. Here she talks about her motivation for setting up the label and joining the RSA:

"I founded the label in 2006 because having worked as Head of Design for a commercial jewellery business I'd come to learn of the complexities of achieving a transparent supply chain. I felt the only way to address this was to find an alternative way to do business which ensured each part of the value chain brought maximum benefit to the people involved and that the value was not simply added at the end of the process, at the expense of the miners, gem cutters, manufacturers etc. I felt that to have prevalent human rights abuses, child labour and environmental damage in the 21st century was unacceptable for a luxury industry."

On joining the RSA, "I was very excited to become part of a network which has achieved such historic results. I have often referred to examples of social progress over the centuries in the UK when people discuss pollution and child labour issues. I am

## North

All Fellows are invited to the upcoming Edinburgh City Network which takes place the last Thursday of each month – it is an informal opportunity for Fellows to meet each other and build relationships across a diverse range of professions and interests.

The next get together will take place on Thursday 30 April 5pm – 7pm, at [Le Monde](#), 16 George Street, EH2 2PF in the bit at the back. Please join us.

## South

The RSA Kent Fellows group will be hosting a lecture and discussion with Rosie Turner, Director of the Canterbury Festival on 28 April at 7.00pm. The event will be held at the Sydney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury. The Gallery will also be showing the Edward Burtynsky Quarries Photography Exhibition. Drinks and snacks will be available to attendees. Please [email](#) if you would like to attend this event.

## East

The Norwich network meets every other month, and the Chelmsford project group meets monthly. Further information about activities in the area will be coming soon. In the meantime please contact [Michael Devlin](#) with any questions.

## West

The Bristol City Network meeting will be taking place at Bordeaux Quay on Tuesday 21 April. The network runs every month and is in partnership with the Arnolfini Arts centre. There will be more information about this at a later date. If you would like to attend on Tuesday please [register your place](#).

For further information about

very proud to now be part of the Society which founded such changes and to count myself part of the contemporary activists for positive change.”

“I hope I can bring my energy and enthusiasm to the Fellowship and my passion for improving the lives of those who have been marginalised, both here in the UK and in developing countries. I have set up my business by my values and live by these; as a result I have also developed a network of like minded individuals across the globe and so I bring this too, which may prove beneficial to grow contacts of projects or other Fellows’ plans.”

“Another Fellow I have spoken to recently is David Strahan who writes about oil. It’s interesting to me to compare the oil industry with mining as both are finite resources and therefore technically unsustainable in the truest sense; also both have been the source of recent conflict and the making or breaking of many industries.”

#### **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.

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 and any editorial decisions will be final.

**You have received this email as a Fellow of the RSA.**  
**[Unsubscribe](#) from the Fellowship Newsletter.**

#### **RSA House offer**

The RSA are offering a 20% off CONNECTION voucher on our 12 beautiful rooms and spaces within the RSA House. These rooms can be hired for private meetings and events; such as weddings. The voucher can be redeemed by RSA Fellows, friends, networks, colleagues and family. Find out more about [RSA House](#) and book your function with us today.

activities in the region please contact [Chris Luffingham](#).

#### **International**

Please take a look at the [American Coffee House](#) for latest news and events in the US, including Fellowship activities. This is a virtual meeting place for Fellows to connect, to inspire action and change and to build upon current activity. Please see the [USA Fellowship pages](#) or contact [Lynn Broadbent](#), US Fellowship Director for more information.