

Welcome to the RSA Fellowship newsletter - 22 November 2010

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Please note that the next Fellowship newsletter will be released on **Monday 13 December**.

News and Events



Introduction by Bob Porrer, Chair of the Fellowship Council

On 5 October I was confirmed as Chair of the Fellowship Council, with Irene Campbell as Deputy Chair. I encourage all Fellows to consider the motions for decision at the AGM on 6 December and to make their views known by voting. [Read the rest of Bob's letter.](#)



Reminder - Call for Nominations for Elections to the RSA Trustee Board (2010)

This year there will be direct elections for up to four Trustees to join the RSA Board. Fellows were invited to nominate in early November, but to date we have received only one nomination. Don't miss this important opportunity – nominations must be with us by noon on **30 November**. [More information.](#)



2010 AGM - 5pm on 6 December at the RSA

If you are not able to attend the AGM, remember that you can still vote using the forms in the AGM pack that was sent to all Fellows, or you can [download the pack via the website.](#)

All Fellows are welcome to attend the AGM. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you from attending and voting in person, but your proxy will be automatically terminated. While pre-registration is not necessary to attend the AGM, it would help with planning and logistics, [so please register your place.](#) You will need to sign in on the night, so please arrive early and bring your Fellowship number.



Join us for Paris event

Fellows are invited to attend the next RSA Paris event, on **Tuesday 30 November**. Jointly hosted with [UNESCO-MAB](#) at the American Library, the event will look at the next steps for Climate Change following the Copenhagen Summit. [Read more...](#)



Carers in Society project

The Carers in Society project, initiated by the London Regional committee, and led by Jonathan Jewell FRSA, has spent the past two years working with the major care charities, health and social care organisations and carers themselves to study, and try to address, the plight of carers in London. The next step of the project is developing a method of using these findings to take it to the next stage. Fellows with an interest in the field are invited to get involved. [Read more...](#)



Events in Scotland: 2 & 3 December

There are two events taking place in Scotland in the coming weeks organised by the Fellows' Media, Creative Industries, Culture & Heritage Network (MCICH). The events will look at libraries in the 21st century and European perspectives on culture and heritage. Fellows and guests are invited to attend. [Read more...](#)



RSA House: Christmas opening hours

With Christmas drawing close, please note that the RSA House will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve and re-open again on 4 January. The Gerard Bar will re-

In brief

A selection of activities taking place worldwide...

London

Fellows are invited to attend the launch of the first major report of the [RSA Whole Person Recovery Project](#). This will take place on **Wednesday 24 November, 9am-10.30am**. Engaging more than 200 current and former drug and alcohol users at two sites in West Sussex, the project has employed a user-centred approach to the design and development of local drug and alcohol services and institutions.



If you would like to attend the launch event, please RSVP to [Janet Hawken](#).

Milton Keynes: network launch

We are excited to announce the launch of a new RSA Fellows' Network in Milton Keynes on **Wednesday 1 December, 6:30pm** at the University Centre MK. At the launch, you'll get the chance to meet and connect with Fellows in your local area, find out what the RSA is doing around the country and share your ideas on how the skills, expertise and passions of the local RSA Fellowship can make a difference locally. [Book now to attend.](#)



Nottingham

Fellows are invited to attend the East Midlands annual lecture and lunch taking place on **Wednesday 8 December**. Chris Price OBE FREng will be speaking on *"Innovation, Teamwork & Profitable Production"*. Prior to this will be a 3 course lunch. The venue is the [Westminster Hotel](#) in Nottingham. You can see



open on 5 January and the Fellows' restaurant will re-open on 10 January.

From **Monday 6 December** the Vaults restaurant will be serving a Christmas menu. You can book online via [the website](#).



Fellow's Profile - Adrian Ashton

Adrian Ashton FRSA works mainly in the field of social enterprise, using his expertise to support a wealth of different organisations. He talks here about why he does what he does and what inspires him:

"My tag-line is "Insight / Development / Encouragement". I support individuals, groups, communities, enterprises (of all sorts), charities and membership bodies to get on and do what they want to – that sounds grand but also a bit 'woolly' so perhaps some recent examples would be useful:

- Working with a university to undertake ground-breaking research into micro-providers of health and social care services
- Training business advisors to better support co-operative enterprises
- Supporting a wide variety of individuals to start up their own enterprises through local enterprise agencies
- Researching the start-up support needs of deaf social entrepreneurs
- Conceptualising incubation and workspace models for homeless entrepreneurs
- Developing toolkits to enable football clubs to understand their full impact and contribution to the communities their clubs are based in
- Creating and delivering a series of master-class programmes for social enterprises on the subjects of governance and impact assessment
- Being a guest lecturer at a theological college on how social enterprises motivated by faith can reconcile their theology with their trading through the legal and governance structures they adopt
- Lobbying legislation and policy where I think it has 'missed the point' (often with surprisingly encouraging results!)

As to the why... I fell into self-employment through misadventure 6 years ago, but have found it a wonderful way to work across a number of themes – sharing ideas between sectors and groups who might otherwise never mix and I find that a heady kick. But as for the underpinning motivations – I've always sought to manifest my faith in everything I do, especially in my working relationships. I want to ensure that I make a dent in the universe, leaving it is some way better than I found it. A strong sense of social justice inherited from my activist parents, and wanting to set an example that my children will be proud of as they grow up.

On joining the RSA: "I recognised it as a body of potential peers, with whom I could reflect on ideas and experiences in ways that I wouldn't be able to otherwise. The recent Hub event in Sheffield helped me realise that my knowledge and experience around social enterprise has a greater value than I had thought, and has prompted me to think afresh about ways I can make better use of it (and also that I really should try and work on my aim when throwing balls at people... (*Editors note: this took place at an interesting social enterprise workshop at the Sheffield Hub event*)). I also craved something with 'history' – so much of my work and projects are fleeting in my relationships with the people I'm introduced to through them, and my involvement in their development. The timeline of the RSA offered me a sense of place and better ability to 'root' myself, my work, actions and thinking in a broader context.

On a recent bit of inspiring news: **13th Theatre Company** is planning a musical about social enterprise in 2011. If you want to know more visit [Twitter](#). After coming across a musical about credit unions, I'm beginning to think that some things might be best shared though song... (I wrote about the benefits of poetry in enterprise education last year and what Shakespeare can teach us about social enterprise earlier this year, so it's great to see such a swell in people taking new approaches to communication)."

On another Fellow he's been in touch with: "Chris Dabbs of **Unlimited Potential** (who I've known for about 4 years now) – no matter what the context, event or people he's with (from unemployed, unqualified resident to peers of the realm), he never seems to differ in his manner, and treats everyone with the same courtesy and respect you'd expect if you were back at school and

further information on the [Midlands social network](#).

To book your place or for further information please contact Sheila Portsmouth FRSA either [by email](#) or on 0116 276 8938.

Liverpool

Join Fellows on **Monday 29**



November for the next OpenDinner event in Liverpool. This is a regular event which takes place in the Delfonseca restaurant which is run by a Fellow.

A different theme is explored at each event. This time the focus will be *Dr Duncan: his relevance for 21st century Liverpool*. Dr William Henry Duncan (1805-1863) was a relentless campaigner against poor living conditions in the Liverpool of the Victorian era. We will be joined by Val Walsh, Chair of [The Duncan Society](#) who will give a brief description and reminder of his work.

To attend the event please book direct with [Delifonseca](#) on 0151 255 0808 or [by email](#).

RSA

Enlightenment scholar, Professor Jonathan Israel is awarded the 2010 RSA Benjamin Franklin Medal for outstanding contribution to Enlightenment scholarship. He will give the 2010 RSA Benjamin Franklin Medal Lecture on **Tuesday 7 December, 6pm** on *Changing the World: Enlightenment and Basic Human Rights*. Jonathan Israel will explore how progressive advances in society and culture are brought about by struggles for equality and for freedom of thought and expression. [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](#).

USA

The RSA-US Board of Trustees is accepting nominations of candidates to serve as US trustees. Contact [Lynn Broadbent](#) for more information.



Into education? Check out Frances Gallagher's presentation on [Breaking Down Educational Silos](#) on

courtesy and respect you'd expect if you were back at school and talking with the headmaster. That and he always wears bright red socks and doesn't appear to be physically ageing..."

On connecting with another Fellow: "Nothing in particular springs to mind; however, what I'd like is the opportunity to occasionally spend some time swapping stories with a like-minded person (ideally in a pub, but coffee shop will do just as well) to explore some of my experiences and responses to them to see if there's anything I might have missed or to identify something that I'd otherwise dismiss but might actually be the next BIG idea..."

You can contact Adrian via his [website](#) or [by email](#).

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 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.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, you can [unsubscribe](#). You might miss out on the latest RSA news!

November 29 at NYU.
Dropping into DC? See what Fellows will be talking about at the [Annual Dupont Summit for Science and Technology](#).
Flying into Florida? Get connected with Fellows in the [Florida area](#).
Visiting Vancouver? A Fellows' network in Canada is launching a [New Renaissance](#) on November 25.

Meanwhile, there is lots happening across North America and all Fellows are welcome! Visit the [American Coffee House](#) for late-breaking details and to connect with other Fellows.

[Nominate a Friend](#)

Do you know someone who you think should be a Fellow? Do you have colleagues, friends or contacts who could benefit from the opportunities of Fellowship?

[Tell us who and why](#), and we'll send an invitation to apply citing your recommendation. Please note, you will need to log-in and have your membership number handy to complete the form. If you have any questions, please contact the [Fellowship team](#).

[Download the RSA Vision iPhone app](#)

If you have an iPhone, check out the RSA iPhone app for the latest videos and RSAAnimates. An Android version will be out shortly.