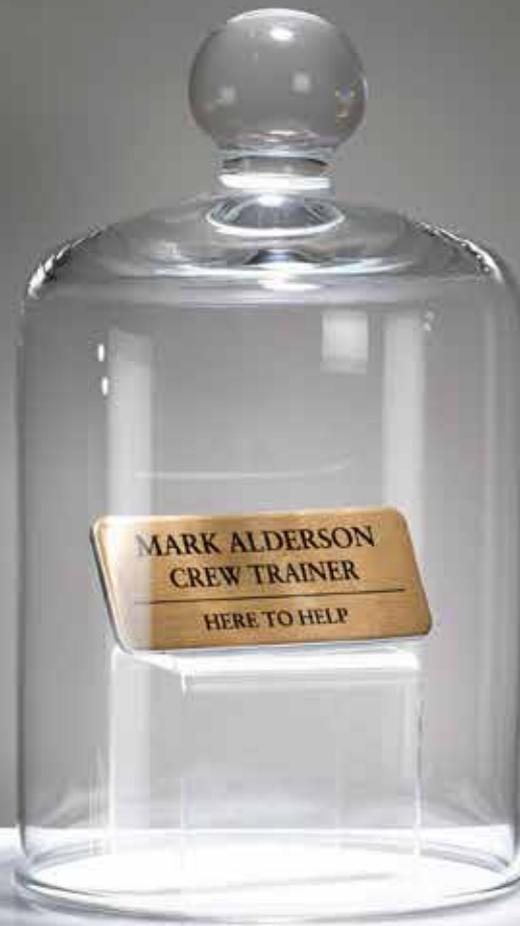


## Work shift

**Ryan Avent** on the social and political evolution needed to cope with automation



### WAITING STAFF

c. 2017

In the early 21st century, all restaurants employed people to take orders and process payments. Name tags made service more personal.

**Alain de Botton** speaks to Matthew Taylor about how capitalism could be better shaped to meet human needs

**R Douglas Fields** explains how rage overrides reason



## “NORMS WILL SHIFT REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THOSE NOT IN WORK”

RYAN AVENT, PAGE 10

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## OBITUARY

### **DR DAVID GUY CHARLES ALLAN (1925-2017) FRHistS, FSA, FRSA, RSA HISTORIAN**

After joining the RSA in 1954, David Allan quickly realised that the archive would prove of great importance. Awarded a PhD for his research into the Society and its influence on 18th century economic and social policy, he encouraged many others to wander 'along the unfenced road' of the RSA's influence worldwide when he established the RSA History Study Group in 1962.

Dr Allan lectured and published widely. He wrote the biography of the RSA's founder, *William Shipley* (first published in 1968); co-authored the story of another founder member, *Stephen Hales, Scientist and Philanthropist* (1980); and with Professor John L Abbott he published *The Virtuoso Tribe of Arts and Sciences: Studies in the Eighteenth Century Work and Membership of the London Society of Arts* (1992). Dr Allan is also recognised as an authority on the history painter James Barry and his murals for the RSA's Great Room.

Aware that there were still many nuggets to be unearthed in the RSA's rich history, David Allan established the William Shipley Group. Generous with his time and knowledge, he continued to share his passion and develop projects and papers until the last few months of his life. His contributions and support will be sorely missed.

*Susan Bennett MA  
Former RSA Curator/Archivist  
Honorary Secretary, William Shipley Group for RSA History*



## INTERNATIONAL

### **THAI CULTURAL HUB**

The RSA is exploring the development of a civic and cultural hub in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with Susannah Tantemsapya, founder and executive director of Creative Migration and the RSA's Connector in Los Angeles.

The aim is to create a groundbreaking new institution that brings together citizens to co-create authentically Thai responses to the challenges of the 21st century. As a platform for enlightened debate and multidisciplinary collaboration, the hub would also foster new ideas, networks and talent.

Tantemsapya, a dual citizen of the US and Thailand, has been gifted a 19th-century building for the project that was first owned by Chaophraya Thammasakmontri, who is considered to be the father of modern education in Thailand.

At the first open house event, hosted in November 2016, RSA Fellows and more than 80 potential Fellows – ranging from artists to academics and innovators to politicians – shared their ideas on how such a hub could best support social change in Thailand. Following positive feedback on the project, the RSA has increased confidence in the demand for such a hub at a key moment of change in Thailand.

The RSA is now seeking funding from investors, both globally and in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region, to support a one-year pilot programme from November 2017. "It's exciting to be collaborating with the group that's helping the RSA break new ground," said Chris Oestereich, the RSA's Connector in Thailand, who helped organise the event. With so much trepidation in the world, it feels good to be part of an effort to create something positive."

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