

### **RWF Newsletter No 17, October 2017**

1. See RWF website for a short research update report produced for the 'expanding **Everyday Democracy** (ED) project', which continues to develop as a **Compass/RWF** partnership initiative.
2. Grant application submitted to **Lipman-Miliband Trust**. This is for support to take the ambitious ED project to the next stage by setting up a new web resource and developing a 'manifesto' for expanding democratic participation with key stakeholders.
3. Nick Mahony (NM), as RWF Administrator, co-organised, in partnership with Red Pepper, two participative sessions at **The World Transformed** in Brighton on the theme of 'cultural democracy' (12 speakers, over 200 participants)
4. Nick and RWF Chair, Sharon Clancy, arranged at the Brighton event above, a new collaborative venture with Hilary Wainwright, editor of **Red Pepper**: to establish a regular RWF written '*Long Revolution*' column in Red Pepper.
5. Our Hon. Web-master Bob Foster has expanded the website to include **Padlet** - a remarkable educational IT facility which Chad Goodwin introduced us to in the summer. Padlet enables postings of complete Lectures etc. with opportunity for comment and discussion. Donald Sasson's and Margaret Drabble's outstanding Lectures (November, 2016) are already posted in full. Watch this space for more exceptional postings and, crucially, contribute to the debates.
6. Nick has set up new **RWF Twitter** account: @LongRevolution
7. Nick has accepted invitation to speak at the **ARVAC annual conference** on the theme of 'Research to inform democracy and engagement' on November 9th at Nottingham Trent University.
8. Collaboration developing with the **Anti-University Now** group, who, over the last 3 years, have pioneered their own approach to self-organised '*education as direct action*', which has so far involved over 1,500 people across the UK.
9. RWF Chair, Sharon, participating in **Cooperative College Conference** in November 2017 on 'new models of Higher Education'.
10. **The Sylvia Pankhurst Library** (SPL) at Wortley Hall (WH), near Sheffield, entered a new phase in the late summer this year when Bob Foster, David Whalley and Derek Tatton made several visits over the Pennines to sift, organise and clear the WH Attic of all book-boxes, with many 'excess' books given to charities like Oxfam. RWF made another donation to WH/SPL for further improvement of lighting in the Library, plus agreeing payment for a 'lockable glass fronted book-case' placed on the main Landing, which will contain books of special value. Several other book cases will also be placed on the Landing, enhancing the SPL collection. Application submitted to the **Sheffield University Information School** for another *post-graduate intern* appointment for 2017-2018 to complete the on-line catalogue of SPL books and archive.
11. Granville Williams' (*Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom*) has proposed an RWF sponsored event on '**Media Democracy**', which will aim to start to collectively draft a 'manifesto for media democracy'. This likely to be a week-end event in March 2018 at Wortley Hall (not conflicting with the following..).
12. Also in March 2018, will be a - **Philip Larkin Poetry** weekend, with Derek Summers and John Boaler as tutors. Earlier similar RWF poetry weekends have been fully booked within a month of promotion. E-leaflet and web publicity posted from mid-November.
13. RWF Chair, Sharon (recently appointed Senior Lecturer at Nottingham University, Adult & Continuing Education) **has worked closely with the National Trust (NT) on a history of Attingham Park** and now plans, also in partnership with Nottingham University, an ambitious **Oral History** residential workshop involving former 'AE activists' probably at Attingham Park in 2018.
14. **WMC linked Literature week-ends** continue to run at *Shallowford House Retreat Centre*, mid-Staffs and now at other residential centres within the region. Full details on programme for September 2017 > Spring 2018 on RWF web.

15. **Discussion Circles** on big issues continue to expand, supported by RWF. For example, the *Philosophy in Pubs* (PIPs) annual residential week-end was grant-aided again this year to help those travelling long distances and low-income participants get to the event. **A WEA discussion circle**, (similar to PIPs and DIPs...) is now running in **Biggleswade** very much on the initiative of Vic and Doris Brunt – long-time RWF Trustees until they ‘retired’ recently but still going strong (Vic is in his nineties) demonstrating that AE and RWF are beneficiaries of demographic change promoting cross-generational education.
16. Trustee David Whalley, co-ordinated an RWF submission, presented to the House of Lords Public Consultation on **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) in September this year. Views of pub discussion circle participants were sent through to David to be summarised in the RWF presentation. Full details on this crucially important initiative can be read on the RWF web.  
**AI** issues (some important new words and concepts...) will now feature in future RWF **Keywords** (KW) Days and weekends building on the strengths of the KW project (see, for example, Joseph Boughey’s essay on **Aspirational** and Sharon’s essays on **Charity & Voluntarism** on RWF web...).
17. The **RW Society** has its 2017 AGM on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Secretary has included an item on the Agenda for discussion ‘potential for greater collaboration’ with the Foundation. A report on this will be given on our website.
18. The 2018 RWF **annual weekend in May 2018** is now being planned on the topic: **Where Now with The Long Revolution?** Follow-through discussions on big themes will include sessions on Anthony Barnett’s **The Lure of Greatness: England’s Brexit and America’s Trump** & Naomi Klein’s **No is Not Enough: Resisting Trump’s Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need**.
19. The 2017 AGM engaged with the **RWF Strategy Review**, extending the Management Committee (ManCom) Team approach. Our newly elected Administrator, Nick, “ will be guided and closely supported by **11 ManCom members working as an Organisational/Administrative Team using web/e-mail/social media/phone and ad hoc residential meetings for network consultation and decision**, with minimum travel for formal face-to-face meetings.”
20. Last but not least, fund-raising for all the above will be high on our agenda. We are changing our ‘membership’ arrangements - see web site for details in the autumn. Meanwhile, as ever, donations and bequests will keep Treasurer Bob Foster smiling ... and RWF thriving. **Donations** however modest can be made now - visit RWF web > *Donate* and Membership

Thanks for getting this far and best wishes

Nick Mahony and Derek Tatton.

[www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk)