

The Long Revolution...

Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential at Wortley Hall,

Fri-Sunday 19 – 21st May 2017

at the 'Workers Mansion', Wortley Hall, near Sheffield (visit www.wortleyhall.org.uk for information & photos)

Provisional Programme

The Long Revolution - towards participative democracy...

The 2017 Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential will use RW's books *The Long Revolution* and his later (1983) *Towards 2000 (new edition 2015)* to review and up-date the analyses of global neo-liberalism, austerity and the post-Brexit situation. We will also engage with the *May Day Manifesto*, edited by RW, published 50 years ago, with the famous Penguin edition following one year later. The prescience of Williams' writings will inform the weekend which will also seek to look forward 'towards a journey of hope', within a 'new social movement' embracing the *Labour, Women's, Peace and Ecology* movements...

This residential will broadly follow the pattern of recent RW events at WHall and elsewhere. Hence we aim to be flexible, expecting however 60 > 65 participants (more than in earlier years) which will enable at least five choices for discussion/seminar sessions in groups of up to a dozen.

This programme will remain provisional, open to some minor modifications.

A *facilitator* '...contributes structure and process to help take the discussion forward...'. We have a line-up of experienced *facilitators* for the discussion circles/seminars/workshops (WEA, OU and other university lecturers/tutors; poets and authors; PiPs facilitator/s...)

Fri 19 May

14.00 onwards Arrival and registration. Book sales, second hand and new from late afternoon on...

Given home/work commitments and Friday travel difficulties some may not arrive until 18.30.. hopefully in time for dinner. Hence, use of the term 'warm up ... sessions'. It helps if you can give some idea in advance of your likely arrival time.

16.00 Tea and biscuits

17.00 Welcome: Introductions, and review of programme plans.

Jeremy Corbyn had to cancel his commitment for the key-note lecture (owing to 'parliamentary business'). Given the pressures, including possibility of a 2017 General Election, we fully understand Jeremy's position on this. He ensured that our weekend was fully booked seven months in advance - a record for any open residential education weekend - and we continue to go ahead, with all bedrooms occupied at Wortley, now with this revised programme:

17.15 Warm-up discussion sessions: i) ***Cultural issues – Liberty and liberation in Poetry***
ii) ***Radical informal education across Europe- PiPs/DiPs methodologies;***
iii) ***Displacing Neoliberalism – DiEM25... ;*** iv) ***Europe at a crossroads with Brexit up-date...;***
v) ***Prostitution and Pornography – feminist perspectives.***

18.30 Dinner

19.45 ***Panel Session on The Long Revolution – towards participative democracy with these speakers***

Sharon Clancy: Senior Research Fellow, Adult Education (University of Nottingham) and public engagement consultant; Sharon has written extensively on adult education, historical and contemporary, and also on the voluntary sector, charity and associationism.

Chad Goodwin: WEA tutor with 20 years' experience of raising awkward questions, undergoing a strong drift towards an anarchist position. Chad is an authority on Thomas Paine and he has taught many WEA/RWF courses on TP themes: "Siempre la Revolucion!"

Hilary Wainwright: British sociologist and socialist feminist, best known as editor of **Red Pepper**. Author of books including *Reclaim the State: Experiments in Popular Democracy (2009)*.

Derek Wall (to be confirmed): International Co-ordinator for the Green Party has published widely (*Guardian, Morning Star...*) on ecosocialism and the Green politics movement. Author of books including: *The Rise of the Green Left: Inside the Worldwide Ecosocialist Movement*. (2010).

Fri 19th May *Continued...*

21.15 **Bar and Bed... or**

followed by an informal **Music and Poetry** late night session, led by Merseyside/PIPs participants

Saturday 20th May

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Discussions and workshops:

- i) **Further discussion on Panel session issues**
- ii) **Keywords: 'Socialism' 'Representative' and 'Charisma';**
- iii) **From Occupy to digital democracy - 'The emerging landscape of thought & practice';**
- iv) **Keeping up Momentum... ; v) The future of Books & Libraries.**
- vi) **Compass/RWF project, an update;**

11.00 Coffee

11.30

Special Guest Lecture by **Professor Carole Hillenbrand**, whose latest book *Islam – A New Historical Introduction* has won wide international acclaim. Carole will talk on **Women and Islam – progressive and feminist Muslim voices**, or similar title.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 RWF AGM (for one hour) or Free time....

16.00 Tea

16.45 Discussions and Workshops

- i) **More on progressive and feminist Muslim voices** widening to update on **Women and Democracy**
- ii) **Volunteering** iii) **Trident;**
- iv) **Review of the May Day Manifesto 1968** with proposed up-dates...: v) **Populism;**
- vi) **Daniel Blake:** Charlotte Hughes reporting and leading discussion on Job Centre experiences...

Ken Loach may be able to lead a plenary session on **I, Daniel Blake.....** Ken cannot commit to any event like this more than one month in advance, but he will come if he can and we will welcome his participation up to the last minute! The programme will be adapted to accommodate this.

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Short presentations (3 minutes each) on the big screen from the latest **YouTube** video postings selected from: **Jeremy Corbyn, Yanis Varoufakis, Noam Chomsky, Caroline Lucas, Nicola Sturgeon, Joseph Stiglitz; Jeremy Gilbert**

These will be discussed in a plenary session, followed by a brief illustrated presentation by Chad Goodwin on **Trump and Cuba**.

21.15 **Bar and Bed, or** the following options

An *International Conscientious Objectors' Day* short talk by Malcolm Pittock on **Max Plowman**. Malcolm's similar optional session last year was repeated by popular request - 'not to be missed' they said...

Singing Together and music making* into the small hours - for some...

* in a sound-proof room...

Sun 21st May

08.30 Breakfast

These final sessions will focus on Williams' statement: "to be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing", sifting and reviewing our 'resources of hope'. These could include some comment on **Scotland – New Community Engagement; Platform Co-ops; Revived Independent Working Class Education; Chomsky's anarcho-syndicalist perspective on Trump; PR & electoral alliances and pacts;** and with Caroline Lucas, Nicola Sturgeon and Leanne Wood in mind, determine that **'the world will become what wise women think'?**

The 60 or so on this residential weekend include a wide range of views and perspectives: political, religious and philosophical. Can we use our extensive networks as resources to take what is positive from our Wortley experience onwards to present, with partners, an effective challenge to the dark and dangerous future we all – especially our children and grand-children – face in coming years and decades?

09.30 Discussions and workshops: i) ii) iii) & iv) bringing together **Three big themes** from earlier sessions, selected on a show of hands;

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 **Plenary Panel (from RWF ManCom), leading Review discussion,** including suggestions for follow-through to...

12.15 **What Next?**

12.50 Soup and sandwich lunch, and heading home...

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Suggested reading, viewing or listening : any books, web references and broadcasts mentioned, or relevant to, above; Raymond Williams Keywords (1976 and 1983)

New Keywords (Ed by Tony Bennett 2005) and **Raymond Williams: A Short Counter-Revolution – Towards 2000 Revisited.** Edited, with additional material by Jim McGuigan (SAGE, 2015). More recommended books as in notes provided on RWF website. Also visit www.opendemocracy.net for latest articles on a number of central issues.

Keep up-to-date with notes posted on RWF web-site. For example, visit the RWF Facebook page to see references > Chad Goodwin on **The Populist Explosion** by John B Judis scrolling down to David Whalley's link to the January 1st 2017, *Guardian* article by Jeff Sparrow on **Trump and Brexit**, quoting Williams extensively.

Advance preparation - by all - for discussion sessions is, we know from experience, hugely helpful, assisting avoidance of waffle and repetition.

Facilitors for sessions may not be 'experts', and may facilitate discussions for which others have prepared notes. We hope obviously that expert opinion will have been consulted by participants beforehand. If you have a lap-tap or i-pad/tablet/phone with you at WH these may be useful during some above sessions. Please bring your guitar, mouth organ, Sax or whatever if you are able to contribute to the social late evening music sessions.

For newcomers - if you are nervous or sceptical about any of the above, fearing confusion and chaos... it is suggested you look at the evaluations on earlier similar residencials on the RWF website > REPORTS > scroll down and click *evaluations*... If you are without computer facilities or know-how your local library staff will be delighted to help get everything relevant on screen for you, if you give them the references as here.

Chad is offering to set up a 'Padlet' to run on line during the weekend. This will enable us all to see what is happening in other sessions and post comments... If you've never heard of a 'padlet', join the club. Don't worry, all will be explained later and on the day....

This event organised with links to: *Philosophy in Pubs (PiPs); WEA; Discussions in Pubs (DiPs); SciBars; U3A; OU and openDemocracy; Compass...*

The grant subsidy from RWF makes this event viable. We could do more if we had more money... gifts, donations and bequests welcome any time, however modest. Press the **donate** button on the website!

Although fully booked residentially at Wortley Hall we may take a few additional bookings, with B&B accommodation a short car drive away. Priority for these bookings given to those aged 16 – 24 and bursaries could also be available for those within this young age-band.

Contact for anything further on the above: 0161 4779376 > Ria Higham (regarding new bookings, accommodation and practical issues generally); or 01538 300321 > Bob Foster (for web or programme issues).

or contact: derektatton@btinternet.com phone 01538 528178

DT January 2017 www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk

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