

Newsletter 14

Calendar of RWF events for 2016:

Tue 5 January: Amber Edwards starting work as Librarian intern (funded by Sheffield University to take the **Sylvia Pankhurst Library on line catalogue** and RWF reading/writing/research retreat project to the next phase... Anyone able to get to Wortley Hall (WH) that week (expenses paid) to help induct Amber, please contact me...

Sat-Sun 9-10 January; 6-7th February; 5-6th March; 9-10th April **WMC Literature linked weekends** at Shallowford House (details on RWF web)

Fri 29- Sun 31 January: **Keywords weekend** at WH, 9 firmly booked residentially by Dec. 10th (including facilitators) which leaves just one bedroom available, plus several potential non-resident places taking maximum participants to 15. This is most encouraging because with minimal promotion effort and costs we have another viable discussion circle/seminar/workshop weekend, which will later, after collaborative editing, post an essay on the word 'Voluntarism' within the RWF web **KW** project pages.

Thu 11th February: formal launch of the book **Distress in the City: racism, fundamentalism and a democratic education**, Edited by Linden West and others, which includes chapters based on interviews with Clare White (trustee) and myself based on WEA, WMC, RWF narratives relevant to Stoke-on-Trent. Proposal that big issue themes from the book will be the focus for a **WEA/RWF Day School/Conference/Workshop, Stoke-on-Trent, later in the year...**

Friday-Sunday 18-20th March: Exploring the work of Tony Harrison, Leeds born Poet and Playwright at Wortley Hall with Derek Summers as Tutor.

Details on RWF website. Three booked already for this by early December and only a dozen places at most are available. We can be confident that this will be viable - again with minimal promotional effort and cost.

Fri-Sun 15-17th April: Annual RW residential weekend, including AGM at WH on **Europe and the Future of the EU**, . Key-note speaker booked: Derek Wall, Economist, Author, International Co-ordinator of the Green Party. Another lecturer to be arranged... Discussion Circle/Seminars on all the big issues...

Fri-Sat 13-14th May: **DemFest: 'Beyond the Ballot'** at Gladstone's Library, Hawarden. This experimental new *Festival of Democracy* will have a live website before Xmas. The weekend will be shorter and less ambitious (and therefore not as costly - for RWF and partners, *DemSoc* and *Gladstone's*) than earlier proposed. Nick Mahony, representing RWF, has played a major role, helping organise the programme which will be challenging and very much in line with RWF's aims, with **KW** session/s, for example. DemFest will be viable with each partner providing just 20 bookings each for the event as a whole. Details with provisional programme to be distributed shortly.

Wed 22 June: **Barnaby - Festival in Macclesfield** which will feature *Park Tavern* DiPs sessions taking over all of the pub meeting rooms for discussions on 'Space' themes. David Whalley, RWF Trustee, has helped initiate this and will be linking it to RWF web.

Thu-Friday 23-24th June: **The Future of Adult Learning** A major Conference at Attingham Hall (National Trust) with Sharon Clancy, RWF trustee, as one of the main organisers.

June/July/August: **PiPs annual weekend** ... plus several possible RWF events: a Day School/Conference/Workshop in South Wales based on the book **Wales and Beyond**, edited by RWF trustee Steve Woodhams which will be published early in 2016. Another weekend for a small circle/group (up to 12) in the **KW series** at WH or wherever? **A Clive Edwards Memorial Day or weekend in Blackburn on TU education and the Asian community....**

Fri-Sun 14-16th October **Festival of Labour History**, Barnsley Trades Council, celebrating its 125th anniversary - in partnership with RWF, at WH.

Season's Greetings and with best wishes for 2016

Derek Tatton Administrator, RWF