

To all on RWF network list/s

**RWF Newsletter No. 16, 12th August 2016**

Dear all,

- 1) **Plans for pub/cafe/ informal discussion circles/groups:** PiPs/DiPs/SciBars/cafe philosophique etc... also including U3As, faith groups and so on.

Our RWF activity within this 'movement' continues to develop. Trustee Paul Doran connects with the extraordinary PiPs national and international network, also making good use of small RWF grants to widen participation at the annual PiPs residential Conference.

This autumn an initiative by Trustee David Whalley - notes on Brexit issues, posted on RWF Headlines - will feed through to pub and other discussion circle programmes, especially Qs 16 & 17 in David's list...: David represented RWF at the meeting of the Wortley Hall Co-op Share-holders' Q meeting on Sun 21<sup>st</sup> August when he reported on Jeremy Corbyn's planned RWF lecture next year (see below) and stressed the need for good IT and Wi-fi. He also made strong recommendations on the need for up-dated hearing technology

- 2) **Mugge/Trout/Park Tavern in North Staffs and South Cheshire** are already programmed;
- i) **Fri-Sat 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** *Enquire Within: Philosophical dialogue within a community context*, Cardiff - supported by RWF.
  - ii) Stop-press: **Sat-Tue 24/27<sup>th</sup> Sept** Momentum presence and stalls at LP Conference promoting public education within the new social movement... RWF members supporting this throughout, including PiPs, of course...?
  - iv) Chair Ria Higham plans a new Stockport DiPs to include Brexit discussion/s;
  - v) Sharon Clancy plans to launch a new DiPs in Mansfield, ditto for Brexit issue/s;
  - vi) Vic Brunt, former Trustee and now aged 92 (not 'elderly', rather 'older and bolder'), reports on positive growth of the WEA Biggleswade discussion circle at the town's Labour Hall, ditto on Brexit, and in October, Vic will be facilitating a searching session on 'Charisma'...
  - vii) *'Distress in the City'* Day School near Stoke railway station on Brexit issues but also engaging with RWF/WMC chapters in this important new book, on Racism, xenophobia > 'resources for a journey of hope' even in Stoke-on-Trent!
- 3) **RWF Keywords** project gains strength:
- i) Notes from the Biggleswade 'Charisma' discussion, as above, will be posted on RWF web for continued modifications and up-dates overseen by the small RWF team which assists web-master Bob Foster. See Joseph Boughey's essay 'Aspirational', which started the RWF web programme...
  - ii) **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> November**, Symposium, *Brazil, Berlin, Burslem: Memory, Identity and Place* at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley inc. Donald Sassoon and Margaret Drabble as key-note speakers. 'Nation', 'Community', 'Literature' and 'Memorialisation' KWs... This Day event is grant-aided by RWF.
  - iii) **Sat 26 November**, RWSociety annual lecture in Oxford, on 'Women and language issues...' RWF residential weekend (Ruskin) of discussion circles based on KW from the lecture and also 'Multiculturalism', 'Nationalism' and 'Race' is being organised by Sharon Clancy, Sophie Kahn and Mary Joannou
  - iv) Several other potential Day Schools on or linked to KWs including WEA partnership in the Eastern Region led by Trustee, Chad Goodwin.

- 4) **The Sylvia Pankhurst Library** project at Wortley Hall gains in significance.
  - i) Most books are now catalogued on line by intern librarians funded by Sheffield University.
  - ii) This strengthens the RWF *Reading/Writing/Discussion Retreat Scheme* - £60 pp grant for two-night/three day residential breaks - detailed leaflet on web, under *Headlines...*
  - iii) Small grants for other projects have led to publications added to the collection/s. The most recent has been a grant to the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom for an event in Wakefield, Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016, showing *The Price of Coal* and also celebrating, through production of a booklet, *Barry Hines (1939-2016) Celebrating His Life and Work*. Copies of that booklet will be available at the SP Library.
  
- 5) **WMC Literature linked weekends** (began in the 1940s...WEA/university) continue now at a residential centre near Crewe, starting on **Sat/Sunday 22-23<sup>rd</sup> October** (*Headlines*, WMC Literature, 2016/17, click...)
  
- 6) **A National Trust project.** Sharon Clancy, whose PhD work at Nottingham university is on Attingham Park, now a hugely popular National Trust (NT) Country House but formerly (1940s > 1970s) Shropshire's short-term residential adult education college, with Warden Sir George Trevelyan. Sharon initiated and helped organise a very successful Conference at Attingham, June 23<sup>rd</sup> this year, on *The Power of Past and Place in the future of Adult Learning*. The programme included lectures on George Trevelyan; *The development of short-term residential colleges in Britain* by John Holford, Professor of AE at Nottingham, who is supervising Sharon's thesis and also helped organise the Conference. I gave a lecture on the *WMC - from the Kremlin, through Fawley Towers to New Halls and Horizons*. The striking innovative feature of this Conference was the direct involvement and support from the NT, whose Senior Director for Strategy, Curatorship and External Affairs, Simon Murray, gave strong support not just to this Conference but outlined a strategy for reviving at NT properties up and down the land residential events and courses connecting back to 'the great tradition' of C20 AE. Sharon is now working on plans, with JohnH, to run an ambitious **Oral History** residential event probably at Attingham, involving former AE activists.
  
- 7) **Oral History projects.** Mary Joannou is also deeply involved in the Cambridge oral history (multi-media archive) project and has interviewed Zoe Munby about the remarkable Community Play the WEA organised in Silverdale, former North Staffs mining village in the 1980s. Google '**Cambridge and the Miners' Strike**' for reference to this and the interview with Lucy Munby about her work with the Cambridge Miners' support group. Oral history projects like this could be an RWF partnered project, linked to Tony Dennis's record of RW residentials (see *Headlines*)?
  
- 8) **The DemFest weekend**, 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May this year was a success (see report, *Headlines*, DemFest). Nick Mahony is discussing, on behalf of RWF, plans for a second on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> 2017**.
  
- 9) **Jeremy Corbyn** has agreed to give the key-note Lecture at our annual RW weekend, **Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017** at Wortley Hall. The weekend theme will be *The Long Revolution* reviewed with a *May Day Manifesto* up-date of RW's book published in 1967. We have booked the Ball Room (150 capacity) for Jeremy's lecture, 11.30am onwards, and 30 bedrooms for the residential weekend (maximum available because of concurrent wedding booking). This will clearly be a major event taking RWF onwards and upwards... As soon as leaflets are posted out in September this year, booking place/s by return is recommended.

- 10) **Funding** for all the above will be a crucial concern for our new RWF Management Committee (ManCom) which has prepared a *Strategic Plan* aiming for us to raise at least £10,000 each year, including interest from our investments - supplementing this with donations and bequests.

It's important to remember that the achievements of RWF (thousands gaining from the varied activities over the years) came from the bequest of one ordinary guy, Dudley Pretty. Our slowly growing number of Life Members, with 20 Trustees, can sustain and expand the organisation but we will be launching new fund-raising initiatives, led by Sharon and Nick, running RWF in the manner of many voluntary, community organisations and web-based campaigns, such as 38 degrees - no formal 'membership' but 'supporters' making donations often for specific projects. Tony Garnett, now 80 years young interviewed on TV recently when asked if he would today make TV films with Ken Loach on issues like *Cathy Come Home* replied, No - they'd not be shown, except in minority art houses and in any case now the internet is the most powerful and relevant medium for campaign and action. RWF has been doing this now for some years, following RW's prescient predictions.

Several further bequests have been promised, and are in-the-pipeline so to speak. The Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair Foundations each have £millions to promote their political projects.

If RWF in coming years could move just a little nearer financially ... Raymond's vision and work within the traditions of participative democracy and the Labour movement remains more life-enhancing and *representative* for the great majority than that of those two political leaders? Any donations/promises of bequests, however, modest will bring a smile to Treasurer Bob' face.

See RWF web for details on this, and on **all dated activities mentioned above**.

Thanks for your continued support,  
and best wishes

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