

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Democracy – Participation Now**

Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential at Wortley Hall, 28th-30th November 2014

### **Provisional Programme**

This residential will broadly follow the pattern of recent RW events at WHall and elsewhere. Hence we aim to be flexible, expecting 45 participants (2 or 3 part-time) which will enable five choices for discussion/seminar sessions in groups of up to ten. 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/groups/seminars (WEA, OU and other university lecturers/tutors; poet and authors; PiPs facilitator/s...)

### **Fri 28th November**

14.00 onwards Arrival and registration. Book sales, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand and new from late afternoon on...

16.00 Tea and biscuits

17.00 Welcome: Introductions, and review of programme plans.

17.15 Warm-up discussion sessions: i) ***Liberty and Liberation in Poetry***;  
ii) ***Constraints on Democracy*** iii) ***Public Libraries*** iv) ***PiPs and other methodologies – training***  
v) ***38 Degrees***

18.30 Dinner

19.45 ***Participation Now – Work in Progress and On-line Learning Potential***  
*Dudley Pretty Memorial* Key-note Lecture by **Dr Nick Mahony**, Founder of OU/oD PN Project

21.15 **Bar** or option of ***Folk Music*** and ***Poetry Readings*** (*from within the groups*)

### **Sat 29<sup>th</sup> November**

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Discussions and workshops: i) ***Further discussion on 'Participation Now' Lecture***  
ii) ***From Occupy to Digital Democracy*** iii) ***Freire, Raymond Williams and Chomsky***: 'The emerging landscape of thought and practice;  
iv) ***Women and Democracy*** v) ***A review of Paul Rogers' oD weekly postings on War – and Peace***

11.00 Coffee

11.30 ***Social and Democratic Exclusion on City Estates and 'Precariat' Issues in General***  
Lecture by **Dr Lisa McKenzie**, Fellow, Department of Sociology, LSE.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Free time....

15.00 **Optional catch-up** on discussions as above, selected by vote.

16.00 Tea

16.30 ***Two earlier sessions***, as above, repeated; iii) ***Scotland - the new social and political landscape***; iv) ***The Independent Working Class Education (IWCE) network***; v) ***Volunteering***

18.30 Dinner

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> November** (Contd)

19.45 **Public Engagement and the Big Society** Lecture by **Sharon Clancy**, former Head of Community Partnerships and currently researching radical adult education in residential colleges.

21.15 **Bar, and/or** social evening – **Singing Together** (not too long...)

**Sun 30th November**

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Discussions and workshops: bringing together **Three big themes** from lectures and earlier sessions, selected on a show of hands

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Discussions and workshops: As 09.30, plus maybe **another big theme** from earlier sessions, selected on a show of hands.

12.30 Forum: **Review, and What Next?**

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

.....  
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)  
More recommended books as in notes provided... Visit [www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net) for latest articles on a number of central issues.

Two more themes may be on the agenda to be added/replace the above:

a) **Democracy within Cooperatives;** b) **Gerontology – the Grey Power phenomenon**

Keep up-to-date with notes posted on RWF web-site. 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, mouthorgan, Sax or whatever if your 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 residential on the RWF website...

Any queries/issues contact: [derektatton@btinternet.com](mailto:derektatton@btinternet.com) or phone 01538 370067

DT 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 [www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk)