

Where Now? – a post-election review

Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential at Wortley Hall (WHall),
Fri-Sun 15th – 17th May 2015

Provisional Programme

This residential will broadly follow the pattern of recent RW events at WHall and elsewhere. Hence we aim to be flexible, expecting 50 participants (with more part-time on the Saturday) 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, university lecturers/tutors; poet and authors; PiPs and DiPs facilitator/s...)

Fri 15th May

14.00 onwards: Arrival and registration. Early arrivals may be able to assist with books organisation and sales ...

16.00 Tea and biscuits

17.00 Welcome: Introductions, and review of programme plans.

17.15 Warm-up discussion sessions:

i) Poetry, beginning with Adrian Mitchell ‘Dear Sir, I have read your Manifesto with great interest but it says nothing about singing’; ii) PiPs methodology - training; iii) The super-rich and Chavs – ‘class’ revisited; iv) Migrant communities (from the Kilburn Manifesto) v) Displacing Neoliberalism

18.30 Dinner

19.45 ***The Tragedy of the Private – The Potential of the Public.***

Lecture by **Hilary Wainwright**, Co-editor of Red Pepper; Fellow, Transnational Institute

21.15 **Bar** or option of **Music** and **Poetry Readings**

Sat 16th May

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Discussions and workshops: i) ***Further discussion on Hilary’s Lecture***

ii) ***RW’s Keywords ‘Representative’; ‘Ecology’, ‘Public’ and ‘Private’; iii) Trident – a case study; iv) Nations and Communities in these Isles; v) An earlier session repeated as last evening***

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Discussions and workshops: i) ***What now for women?***; ii) ***The NHS***; iii) ***Syriza***; iv) ***Digital Democracy***; v) ***An earlier session repeated, from the above.***

13.00 Lunch

14.15 **Green Priorities...** The Dudley Pretty Annual Lecture by **Natalie Bennett**, Leader of the Green Party.

16.00 Tea

16.30 **Free-time** or the **RWF AGM** (for about one hour)

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Discussions and workshops: i) **Further discussion on Green Priorities**
ii) **Centre Right and Extreme Right perspectives;** iii) **Education – ‘a comprehensive review’:
whatever happened to lifelong learning?** iv and v) **Earlier sessions repeated**

21.15 **Bar, and/or social evening – Music and Poetry**

Sun 17th May

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...

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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)
More recommended books as in notes provided... Visit www.opendemocracy.net for latest articles on a number of central issues.

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. Feed-back on earlier discussions/seminars/workshops indicates that participants are critical of dominance, digression and dogma...

Facilitators 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 Wortley these may be useful during some of the above sessions. Please also bring your guitar, mouthorgan, Sax, music sheets 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 residential on the RWF website...

Any queries/issues contact: derektatton@btinternet.com or phone 01538 528178

DT 9th May 2015 www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk