**Keywords – A Weekend of Discussion - ‘Charity’, ‘Philanthropy, ‘Voluntarism’ and ‘Altruism’**

**Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential at Wortley Hall (Wortley Hall), Friday 29th January to Sunday 31st, 2016**

**Programme**

This residential will partly follow the pattern of recent RW events at Wortley Hall and elsewhere. However, this is not about external expert speakers; there will be a facilitator (Sharon Clancy) for each session, but the progress of discussion will depend on individual participants. As with sessions in Philosophy in Pubs, or Discussions in Pubs, the aim will be a series of democratic discussions in which all can feel able to take part.

**Aims:**

To unpick and debate what we mean by concepts such as ‘charity’, ‘philanthropy, ‘voluntarism’ and ‘altruism’, providing thinking space and contextual tools to enable us to consider these concepts in the broader context of ‘civil society’ – and, specifically, our individual and collective place in society and where charity and voluntarism sit within it. We will explicitly challenge models of charity and philanthropy which sit on the marketing and public relations spectrum and will look at charity in the context of **praxis** - theprocess by which a theory is enacted, embodied, or realised through engagement and activism – for social change.

**A set of reading materials is provided in advance but is for general guidance and we emphasise that the discussion to follow is dialectical.**

We aim to be flexible, anticipating 8-15 participants (with more part-time on the Saturday). If over 12 participants, we may split into two parallel sessions.

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

Fri 29th January

14.00 onwards: Arrival and registration.

16.00 Tea and biscuits

17.00 Welcome: Introductions, and review of programme.

17.15 Warm-up discussion Session 1: Raymond Williams, Overview of keywords – Charity, Philanthropy, Voluntarism and Altruism

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Session 2: Plans for construction of new keywords outlined and discussed.

21.15 Bar or further reading!

Sat 30th January

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 3: Charity

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Session 4: Philanthropy

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Session 5: Voluntarism

16.00 Tea

16.30 Free-time or further reading!!

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Session 6: Altruism – the story on our Keywords so far!

21.15 Bar, and/or further reading!

Sun 31st January

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 7: Bringing the definitions together

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Session 8: Refining the definitions together and next steps….

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; Useful Links: http://keywords.pitt.edu/williams\_keywords.html

Raymond Williams Keywords (1976 and 1983)

New Keywords (Ed by Tony Bennett .... 2005)

Visit www.opendemocracy.net for latest articles on a number of central issues.

For a light-hearted comment on charity see -  <https://josephboughey.wordpress.com/josephs-monthly-essay/bah-humbug-was-scrooge-right-about-christmas-december-2015/>.

Another note could be useful. <https://josephboughey.wordpress.com/raymond-williams-work/keywords-and-raymond-williams-method/>

Check out the National Coalition of Independent Action (NCIA) who have written some brilliant articles/blogs etc about the troubled role and status of the charity sector and its increasing state colonisation - <http://independentaction.net/>

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.

If you have a lap-tap or i-pad/tablet/phone with you at Wortley these may be useful during and between the sessions.

For newcomers - if you are nervous or sceptical about any of the above, it is suggested you look at the evaluations on earlier similar residentials on the RWF website...

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

Or Sharon Clancy - [www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk) or [firefox.clancy@virgin.net](mailto:firefox.clancy@virgin.net)

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