

Raymond Williams Foundation

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The Long Revolution - towards participative democracy...



This was another successful RWF weekend please read the participants evaluations [here](#)

Fri-Sunday 19 – 21st May 2017.

at stunning Wortley Hall, near Sheffield

From 4.00pm onwards on Friday to 2.00pm Sunday.

Participants can arrive at WHall, S35 7DB, any time from 2.30pm onwards

The 2017 Raymond Williams Foundation (RWF) residential will use RW's books *The Long Revolution* and his later (1983) *Towards 2000* (new edition 2015) to review and up-date the analyses of global neo-liberalism, austerity and the post-Brexit situation. We will also engage with the *May Day Manifesto*, edited by RW, published 50 years ago, with the famous Penguin edition following one year later. The prescience of Williams' writings will inform the weekend which will also seek to look forward 'towards a journey of hope', within a 'new social movement' embracing the Labour, Women's, Peace and Ecology movements...

This special programme will follow the pattern of successful discussion-based events at Wortley Hall (www.wortleyhall.org.uk) and other venues over recent years.

Discussion. throughout the weekend, in small seminar groups/workshops (up to ten in each) There will also be another Lecture by a distinguished author (details later). On the Saturday evening we will have short presentations on the big screen from the latest YouTube video postings by **Yanis Varoufakis**, **Noam Chomsky**, **Caroline Lucas** and these will be discussed in a plenary session.

Topics for discussion circles may include:-

Brexit up-dates; **DiEM25**; ; From **Occupy to digital democracy** - 'The emerging landscape of thought & practice'; Keeping up **Momentum**... ; **Compass**, **38 degrees** and RWF partnership potential; **Scotland** and new community engagement; The future of **Public libraries**; **Women and Democracy**;

Liberty and liberation in Poetry; Trident; Constraints on Democracy; Review of the **May Day Manifesto 1967** with proposed up-dates...: **Independent Working Class Education** – looking back, and forwards; **Keywords session/s** on **Socialism; Representative Democracy; Anarchism; Volunteering; Proportional Representation** (PR), including the case now for **electoral alliances and pacts**.

Notes with references, quotes, and suggested advance reading/watching/listening on the above will be posted on RWF web, from now on..

Broad themes embracing most of the above will be offered for larger group discussions on the Sunday morning.

Discussion Notes....

- 1)Notes on Anti-semitism [here](#)
- 2) Donald J Trump "Is there a better, more apt description of the incoming Trump administration than 'kakistocracy', which translates from the Greek literally as government by the worst people? Notes [here](#)
- 3) Are we going backwards in terms of girls being judged mainly on their looks? Notes [here](#)
- 4)Notes on a Progressive Alliance [here](#)
- 5)Notes on "Post-truth: Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2016" [here](#)
- Advance reading(though not necessary) Seeing Reason [here](#)
- 6) Notes on Prostitution [here](#)
- 7) Notes on "Generations" [here](#)
- 8) Notes on "Neoliberalism" [here](#)

Recommended Advance Reading....

- 1) The May Day Manifesto edited by Raymond Williams - there is a free edition here <https://www.lwbooks.co.uk/sites/default/files/free-book/Mayday.pdf>
- 2) The Kurdish revolution – a report from Rojava(in Syria) http://www.redpepper.org.uk/letter-from-rojava/?utm_source=Pepperista&utm_campaign=b9faf9d5f3-Jan_pepperista_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2d5c5bf744-b9faf9d5f3-117922553
- 3)On Tyranny [here](#)
- 4) On Populists [here](#)

Programme

The provisional programme as at 2 May 2017 [here](#)

Given the exceptional nature of this event, we anticipate that it will be fully booked, as soon as promoted and advertised. Even so RWF is subsidizing the special rate charged by Wortley Hall.

All-in (subsidized) fee – only 135.00pp,

includes en suite bedroom, all meals, refreshments and all sessions.

£40pp deposit

with balance payable at least 3 weeks in advance.

Non-residents welcome. Fee pro rata, depends on when you come and go. Phone: 0161 477 9376 to Book

Up to six Bursaries for un-waged in receipt of benefits/students – aged between 16 and 40: **£40pp all-in** Ask for details. Phone: 0161 477 9376

To Book and Pay for the Residential Course [go here](#)

Some tickets (perhaps 90) will be available for the Jeremy Corbyn lecture only, **from February 2017. Advance booking only:** Fee £10.00pp (including tea/coffee/fruit juice from 11.00am...). **Notice to book the lecture only will be posted in February.**

Raymond Williams Foundation
Reg charity No 1126575

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