STEINER WALDORF TEACHERS’ NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020

ROOTS AND RENEWAL

TUESDAY 14 – THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARTYN RAWSON  Steiner Waldorf Teacher and Teacher Educator

VENUE  RINGWOOD WALDORF SCHOOL

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VENUE

RINGWOOD WALDORF SCHOOL
Folly Farm Lane
Ashley, St Ives
Ringwood, BH24 2NN

www.ringwoodwaldorschool.org.uk

COSTS

CONFERENCE FEE:
Booking and payment
before 6th April 2020: £40
after 6th April 2020: £60

Fee includes tea and coffee during the conference

LUNCH
Wednesday & Thursday £5 per day

SUPPER
Tuesday & Wednesday £8 per day

ACCOMMODATION
Classroom / on-site camping
(bring your own bedding and roll mat and tent if required) £5/night

Room with local host family
(incl. breakfast) £20/night
(this will be available on first come, first served basis)

A list of local B&B hotels is available on request

Please complete and return booking form by email

If you have any questions please contact:
SAM GRESHOFF
sam@steinerwaldorf.org
CONTRIBUTORS

TREVOR MEPHAM (Chair)
Trevor Mepham has worked in Waldorf education for over 30 years. Beginning as a Class Teacher at the South Devon Steiner School, he then worked as a teacher adviser and Executive Member of the national association of the Steiner Waldorf Schools’ Fellowship. Trevor spent 12 years at the University of Plymouth, as a lecturer in the Faculty of Education. He served for five years as a member of the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE). More recently, Trevor served as Principal of two state-funded Steiner schools in England. Currently, Trevor is coordinator of International Forum for Steiner Waldorf Education working to help schools and training courses in different parts of the world, including Europe, South Africa and China.

MARTYN RAWSON
Martyn was the co-founder of York Steiner School. He worked as a class teacher, upper school teacher, foreign language teacher in Botton, Michael Hall and Stuttgart and currently teaches in Hamburg. He was a former member of SWSF Executive Group with special responsibility for publications (1995–2003) and a member of College of Pedagogical Section Dornach (1995–2012). He is an experienced teacher educator having worked for Greenwich University, Plymouth University, Freie Hochschule Stuttgart, Waldorf Seminar Kiel, active in China and India as well as Europe. His wide range of publications are available in English, German, Mandarin and Japanese.

PAUL HOUGHAM
Paul is the newly appointed Principal at Wynstones School, past Acting Principal of Steiner Academy Exeter/Avanti Hall School and author of Dialogues of Destiny: a Postmodern Appreciation of Waldorf Education.

AONGHUS GORDON
Aonghus has a distinguished track record of development and leadership of several ground-breaking charities that provide high quality environments and opportunities for people with disabilities. He is passionate about the need for people to break out of dependency and marginalisation, believing that everyone has the potential to shape their own future.

ABI ALLANSON
Abi has been a Class Teacher, SENDCo, Literacy specialist and Middle School Lead since she first qualified in 2000, at St Paul’s Steiner School, Rudolf Steiner School Kings Langley and the former Steiner Academy Frome, now Avanti Park School. She is co-author of Writing to Reading the Steiner Waldorf Way (Hawthorn Press, 2018)

PHIL FORDER
Having worked for 15 years in a small Steiner school in west Wales, Phil moved to working in the largest High Security Prison in the UK where he has been for the last 20 years. His work inside has taken on various roles, the most challenging being tackling homophobia - a task that had personal life changing consequences, for which he received a Butler Trust award (2016), was featured in the launch of Thompson Reuters ‘Openly’ (2019) and was made a Stonewall Role model (2020).
WORKSHOPS

Please indicate first and second choice of workshops and artistic practice sessions on the booking form

1 OWNING OUR ESOTERIC ROOTS – INNER PATH WORK

Michaela de Winter, Brighton Waldorf School
Michaela has been working as a Waldorf Steiner class and subject teacher for 15 years while pursuing the anthroposophical meditative path. A central tenet requested by Rudolf Steiner is that the teacher have ‘An inner life worthy of imitation by a child’.

The starting point of this workshop will be the exhortation, from the second teacher mediation, to both behold and sense the weaving cosmic light and reigning earthly darkness within the human being. Using artistic representations and selected quotations we will explore the angelic and demonic realms between which the being of humanity is woven and how rhythmic meditative practice contributes to ‘An inner life worthy of imitation by a child’.

2 CHILD STUDY: THE SINE QUA NON OF WALDORF EDUCATION

Amanda Bell, St Michael Steiner School
Amanda Bell has been a Waldorf teacher for 23 years. She spent 16 years as a Class Teacher and has been teaching History and Art in the Upper School for the last 7 years. She co-founded The St Michael Steiner School in 2001 and took over as co-director of the London Waldorf Seminar in 2010. She is currently also co-ordinator of the Education Section in the UK.

Through study, discussion and practical exercises in observation, in this workshop we will look at how Child Study can have a positive, enlivening effect on every aspect of the school and try to come to an understanding of why it is indispensable - now, more than ever.
3 WHY DO WE TEACH MATHEMATICS?

Jenny Drake, Ringwood Waldorf School

I have spent my working life in Education, first as a Primary teacher then as a Primary Maths Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at Winchester University and finally as a Class teacher at Ringwood Waldorf School.

Over the 3 sessions we will be exploring the Big Ideas in Mathematics, what makes mathematics unique and having fun with problem solving.

4 REVEALING THE PEDAGOGICAL POTENTIAL OF CRAFT AND PRACTICAL BASED ACTIVITIES THROUGH GOETHEAN OBSERVATION

Matthew Briggs MSc (Practical Skills Therapeutic Education), BSc (Hons), QTLS, MSET: Doctoral Researcher (Field centre and Sheffield Hallam University) and Education and Research Coordinator (RMLT)

After studying ‘Environmental Conversation and Education’ at Sheffield Hallam University, Matthew worked for Forest schools teaching children within holistic outdoor settings and training adults on how to deliver such education effectively. He has been working for Ruskin Mill Trust (RMT) for the past 13 years Tutoring, Training, Lecturing and developing a range of craft and outdoor education curriculums and programmes. After spending several years applying and researching the Trust’s unique method - Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE), Matthew gained a Masters in Science for his research: ‘What are the Therapeutic and Pedagogical Benefits of Craft for impulse control related Disorders within the SEN Further Education Sector’. Around this time, he also completed the ‘Consciousness studies’ course at Rudolf Steiner College, California, USA. Since then Matthew has applied the Trusts method of PSTE along with his research via the creation and delivery of a number of training of development programmes across the Trust including; ‘The Pedagogical Potential of Craft’, ‘Applied PSTE and the 7 Fields of Practice’ and the ‘PSTE staff Induction programme’.

He is now further researching craft Pedagogy with a focus on the development of Executive Function Capacities through craft using multimodal methodologies, for his Doctorate in Education at Sheffield Hallam University with support from the Field Centre.

This workshop seeks to explore and develop our pedagogical intuition and observation skills. Using insights from Goethe, Steiner and Ruskin, alongside modern paradigms of research and multimodal methodologies, we will explore modes of promoting meaningful dialogue and encounters with the world and how subsequent pedagogical developments can be placed within the current paradigm.

5 EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF SEND

Kath Bransby, Sheffield Hallam University and Executive Group SWSF

Kath Bransby worked as a Early Years teacher and senior leader for 12 years, working to bring elements of Waldorf practice into her mainstream classrooms. Kath is now Education Co-ordinator for the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship, working with schools across the UK. She also lectures in Teacher Education at Sheffield Hallam University.

In this workshop we will look at the roles and responsibilities of the teacher and SENDCo in the early identification of possible developmental delay and SEND. We will consider how to manage those tricky conversations with parents, and what support strategies can be put in place for children.
Dr. Tom Smith and Johan Grimshaw, Brighton Waldorf School

Dr. Tom Smith is the new Science Teacher at the Brighton Waldorf School, and has been teaching Science outreach to children from reception up to undergraduates for over 10 years. He has completed part of the WESTT course in his search to find meaningful education in the modern age, as well as a PGCE at the University of Sussex. He also likes music, bees and origami. Johan taught Chemistry at Michael Hall for 9 years before moving to Brighton Waldorf School. Previously, he was a Class Teacher at Botton Village School, and, before teaching, ran his own whole food business, worked for 15 years in NHS pathology laboratories, and for 4 years in the chemical industry.

TUESDAY - INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE
(Dr Tom Smith and Johan Grimshaw)

This introductory session will cover an overview of middle school science with a main focus on Biology and Anatomy, and have time for key questions from class teachers about the role of science in Waldorf Education.

WEDNESDAY - CLASS 6 PHYSICS - LIGHT, HEAT, SOUND, ELECTRICITY & MAGNETISM - THEORY & PRACTICE
(with Dr. Tom Smith)

In this workshop teachers will be guided through the fundamental principles that encompass the Class 6 Physics module. Starting with light and the candle, leading onto heat as a form of energy transfer, creating and observing the acoustics of sound and ending with the inter-relationship of electricity and magnetism. There will be plenty of room for questions and experiments as we squeeze the essence of this 3-5 week Main Lesson block into 90 minutes.

THURSDAY - CLASS 7 CHEMISTRY - FROM ALCHEMY TO BENEDICT’S, THE A-B OF MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEMISTRY (with Johan Grimshaw)

This workshop will condense the essence of the Chemistry Main Lessons from Classes 7 & 8 covering the topics of combustion, acids and bases and food chemistry. There will be practical activities and demonstrations galore, to guide the understanding of these key topics for class teachers.

ARTISTIC OPTIONS

7 AFRICAN MUSIC MAKING

Lucy Cooper, Ringwood Waldorf School
Lucy took her music degree in Cape Town and enjoyed teaching her own class as well as class music in various schools. For 2 years, she taught township children who in turn, taught her some lovely action songs and dances. She returned to the UK about 11 years ago and this is now her second year working at the Ringwood Waldorf school.

This workshop will cover African action songs to teach various classes as well as some drumming and playing on xylophones.

8 UNFOLDING SYMMETRY

Juliet Blamey, Steiner Academy Hereford
Juliet has been teaching Handwork at the Steiner Academy Hereford for 7 years (participating in the first
cohort of the Handwork Training Course at Wynstones), before which she was a Primary School teacher at a local school for 10 years, which gives her a broad pedagogical perspective. Her career before teaching was as a freelance theatre costume maker, working mainly at The Royal Exchange, Manchester, the city in which she had completed her degree in Philosophy and Politics.

“The practice of handwork actively works inward, as it were, weaving an inner multi-coloured garment whose colours will not fade or threads snap and unravel at the first hurdle presented by life” Rudolf Steiner

In this Handwork based workshop, we will be creating a pattern, using cross stitch and tapestry thread, which will be symmetrical four ways and which can be sewn into a beautiful and useful pin cushion. The design will not be pre-planned but will unfold and evolve from the centre towards the outer edges. As we work, we will hear some of Rudolf Steiner’s indications for Handwork and consider their relevance today as well as do a bit of singing and hear and share stories together. This workshop is suitable for absolute beginners and skilled craftspeople alike.

9 EMBROIDERED HORSE PROJECT

Martha Garland, Greenwich Steiner School

Martha is a textile designer-maker and educator specialising in traditional crafts. She is an alumni of Ringwood Waldorf Steiner school, and a graduate from Central St Martin’s. She is a Handwork teacher at St Paul’s & Greenwich Steiner Schools, as well as a freelance designer. Her crochet work is currently on exhibition at the V&A museum.

This workshop will explore the transition of materials from 2d to 3d, & hand sewn embellishment.

10 BOTHMER MOVEMENT AND GAMES: HOLDING SPACE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY ONLY

Kevin Campbell Davidson, Bothmer Movement International

Kevin was the Bothmer Movement and Games teacher at Greenwich Steiner School for ten years, as well as three years at St Paul’s Steiner School. He holds a master’s degree in Education from Goldsmiths College and lectures in movement and play on the BA Education, Culture and Society programme. Kevin currently facilitates Bothmer Movement training programmes in Europe, China, Taiwan and the Philippines. For Waldorf 100 Kevin has been compiling a video library of pedagogical hand games from Waldorf communities around the world.

What does it mean to hold space? How do we hold space for our children, families and colleagues in the way we work together? In this workshop we will explore these questions together through games and movement activities.

EURYTHMY - THURSDAY ONLY

Martina Gayer, Ringwood Waldorf School

11 PAINTING CHILDHOOD

Tessa Carias, Canterbury

Tessa Carias is an experienced class and upper school teacher as well as a teacher educator

Using poetry as the source of inspiration, participants will work towards a visual interpretation of some lines of text using watercolour, with preliminary ideas and colour exercises in soft pastels and/or wet-on-wet. Along the way, you will have the opportunity to explore different colour moods and means of achieving colour blends, whether you choose to work with form or purely with colour. The aim is to weave a favourite phrase into the final painting, but this is not compulsory!
12 WHY SING?!

Julian Rolton, Michael Hall Steiner School

Over the last 20 years, Julian Rolton has taught music at both RSSKL and Michael Hall. Whether teaching a pentatonic song or directing a musical he continues to be fascinated by the power of music to enable, inspire and connect young people whilst providing them with the personal space to experience themselves. Having previously worked as a professional pianist he still manages to perform and record at a high level when the opportunity arises.

‘Why Sing?’ when there are so many other pressing needs in the all-but breathless tumult of a school day? This is an opportunity to take a little time to renew our personal and pedagogical connections to making music through song and to reconsider the often untapped potential of this inescapable gift.

13 LAND ART

Martyn Rawson

Land art is an ephemeral practice in which the participant forms a connection to a specific environment and the natural materials that are available and intensifies this communing into aesthetic form. No prior knowledge or specific experience necessary- outdoor clothing required.

14 CREATING VERSES FOR THE CHILDREN

Josie Alwyn

Josie Alwyn, a post-graduate of Sussex University, has worked with the power of the creative word through thirty-five years of Waldorf teaching in Early Years, Upper School and Teacher Education.

SINGING AND GAMES

In addition to the Workshop and Artistic Practice opportunities, Jenny Drake and Kevin Davidson will lead singing and games sessions respectively at the start of each day.

CLASS 9 IT - THE INTERNET AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES - WALDORF IN THE COMPUTER AGE

(with Dr. Tom Smith) Thursday lunchtime

Over the past term Dr Tom has run a three-week Main Lesson block with Class 9 at the Brighton Waldorf School on the topic of ‘The Internet and Related Technologies’. In this talk he aims to discuss some of the topics covered in the Main Lesson, from the history of computing and the internet through to functional skills of making spreadsheets, websites and presentation slides. In addition, he plans to confront some of the issues that we, as humans, face in our modern technological world.