

## Waterperry Retreat: Economics Workshop

Outline programme: [As at 9 October 2023]

### MONDAY

8.00 pm Reception and meeting up.

8.45 pm Introduction and Keynote 1 - Ian Mason (Retreat Leader)  
*Economic Growth and Economics-with-Justice.*

### TUESDAY

Morning programme to include voluntary quiet time for meditation or quiet pursuit followed by preparation and setting up for breakfast at 7.15.

8.30- Session 1(a) – GDP The Basics (Introductory)

*Ian Mason: A brief summary of the essentials – what GDP is, how it is measured. Its strengths and deficiencies.*

9.15- Session 1(b) – Alternative measures

*Chris Wood: A review of alternatives to GDP and indices that reflect qualitative inputs. Received wisdom is 'what gets measured gets managed'; influence on public and private policy. What about well-being and happiness, of us, the environment? The Dasgupta Review and the economic benefits of natural capital, how might that influence how we approach the subject.*

10.00 Break

10.30-Session 2(a) – Drivers of Growth

*Chris Todhunter: - You don't want Growth to stop, do you? We will explore the irresistible desires which fuel not only the way you (we) live now but also the needs of the 6 Billion impoverished people of the World.*

11.15-Session 2(b) – Productive / Extractive Economy

*Richard Glover – Unravelling these two strands of economic thinking to reveal their distinct effects on the need for growth, and some possibilities for choosing more wisely.*

12.00 Lunch Break (to include setting up and clearing as necessary)

1.45 Session 3 – Keynote 2 – Seb Munden

*[Seb Munden is the former chief executive of Unilever UK & Ireland Ltd, and now the Chair of WRAP, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, an NGO working across the world to change the way things are made used and disposed of in the food, textiles, and*

*packaging systems. Their goal is to eliminate pollution, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions, and scale up the Circular Economy].*

Break

3.30 - Session 4(a) – Distribution of Growth

*Ian Mason: Who is benefitting from all this growth? Developed and developing world; public and private sectors; rising tide in theory and practice.*

4.10 - Session 4(b) – Limits to Growth

*Chris Todhunter: Exploring the aftermath of the 1972 publication by the Club of Rome of the 'Limits to Growth' study. What has happened since then and what does that mean?*

4.45 Break (some voluntary assistance will be needed for supper preparations)

6.00 Quiet time

6.35 Session 5 – *Feedback and Review*

7.15 Setting up and supper at 7.30.

8.30 Session 6 TBA

## WEDNESDAY

Morning programme to include voluntary quiet time for meditation or quiet pursuit followed by preparation and setting up for breakfast at 7.15.

8.30 - Session 7(a) – Green Growth

*Chris Wood: What is it and is it sustainable? The role of ESG and Greenwashing. Some initiatives and the politics of the Overton Window.*

9.00 – Session 7(b) – De-Growth

*Richard Glover: Exploring aspects of economic activity that need to be scaled back, and implications for ordinary lives. Is this winding the clock back or winding it to allow us to go forward?*

09.30 – Session 7(c) – Post growth:

*Chris Todhunter: What are some of the possible scenarios as we face the predicament of climate change and market forces. Collapse or business as usual?*

Break

10.30- Session 8(a) – Bhutan

*Anthony Jones: Gross national happiness – how it works in practice.*

11.15 - Session 8(b) - India

*Chris Todhunter. Focusing on the collision between 'Development' and the cultural legacy of the former Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, we will look at the two slogans which have summarised two approaches: 'Land for the tiller' and 'Land for Development'*

11.45 - Session 8(c) - Africa

*Ian Mason - Where and why economic growth is needed.*

12.00 Lunch Break (to include setting up and clearing as necessary)

1.45 Session 9 - *A visit to the Waterperry Vegetable Garden with a member of staff is planned*

2.45 Break

3.15 - Session 10 - *Pause for thought.*

4.45 Break

6.00 Quiet time

6.30 Session 5 - *Feedback and Review*

7.15 Setting up and supper at 7.30.

8.30 - Session 6 TBA

### **Thursday**

Leave House as good or better than we find it.

Depart by 9.00 am.