

# ART OF HOSTING UK

## PRACTICE MEETING

Leeds - 8 October 2011



# What's alive for me right now and why have I shown up today? What brings me here to Leeds?





The darker it is the more a tea light can shine

When you sit in the dark you can eventually see

It is better to illuminate than shine

AOH illuminates it doesn't have all the answers

All the wisdom is in this room, its just in different heads

Feeling northern , identifying with the North - ancestry and slavery in the mills

Glad we are in Leeds

Being welcoming elders – supporting youth

Weaving knitting – spiders, what are we making really?

Having courage the speak from the heart

Half farmer Half X



- What does hosting have to do with these difficult times and what do I have to do with it?
- What to do with all the fear?
- How to find more security not knowing?

- How do we make use of the opportunities to live again?
- What really matters?
- What makes the newness new in 2011
- Is it Ok to just sit there or is there something practical to do?
- How do we engage with the public sector and others out there?
- How do we reframe what's going on into a place of creative construction?



- What are my ABCs for work in the world, What is being asked of us and how do we act?
- What is best to do right now? – I want to be of service
- How do we support one another to become excellent humans?
- How to link large and national to small and local?
- Is listening what's being asked of us?



## If these are our questions, what are we really dreaming of?

All the bits belong and know their own place

More widespread understanding of principles of hosting

Move from observer to participant

Being in more ancient places and circles

Less ego more centre

Stones and seals of holy island (Northumberland)

Being a small light

More understanding of our journey to wholeness

Being full of myself (and feeling good about it)

Traffic can flow with out traffic lights

Overcoming fear, having courage to be involved, less self centred, more local work

Claiming my own power, speaking truth

Eldership that honours everything and illuminates

Leadership of my making – women's leadership – Go FEARWARDS

Simple life, chop wood, carry water

Sustainable life

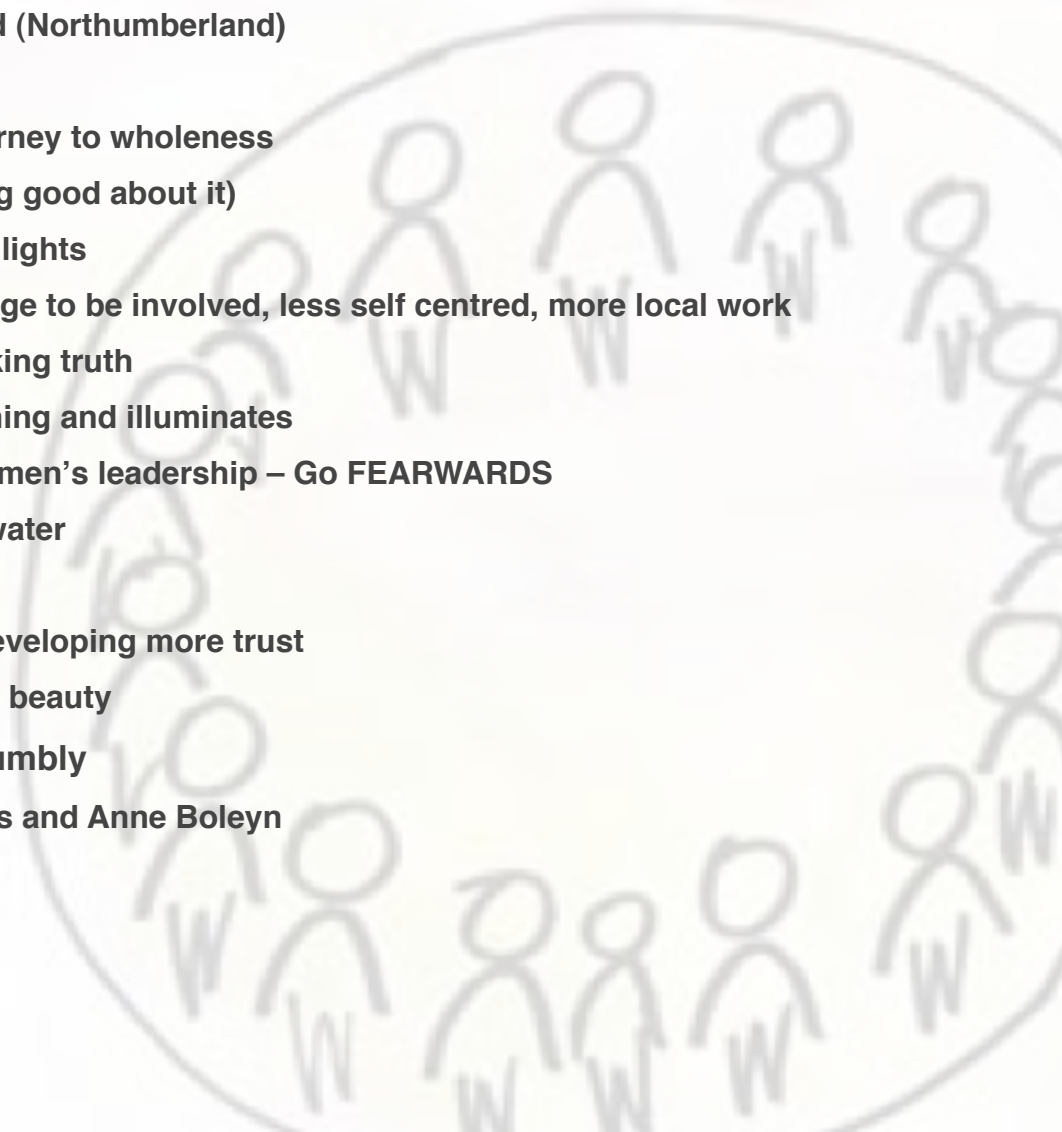
Respect care for each other, developing more trust

Noticing witnessing seeing the beauty

Going about my business humbly

Thomas Tallis, Vaughn Williams and Anne Boleyn

Being in a core team





**What stayed with me:  
Harvest from lesley**

- *My feelings and beliefs about being (northern) English, and determination to seek out the reasons for me to be proud of my identity, even 'full of myself'*
- *The desire to work with others- to not work alone any more*
- *Lots of shared experiences and interesting perceptions about where we are in these times*
- *The question- for those of us who no longer work for public sector employees but still want to be public servants- how?*
- *And the deepening of our shared learning by simply going round and listening to each other, exercising patience and generosity of spirit*

**Prospective Immigrants Please Note  
By Adrienne Rich**

**EITHER YOU WILL  
GO THROUGH THIS DOOR  
OR YOU WILL NOT GO THROUGH.**

**IF YOU GO THROUGH  
THERE IS ALWAYS THE RISK  
OF REMEMBERING YOUR NAME.**

**THINGS LOOK AT YOU DOUBLY  
AND YOU MUST LOOK BACK  
AND LET THEM HAPPEN.**

**IF YOU DO NOT GO THROUGH  
IT IS POSSIBLE  
TO LIVE WORTHILY**

**TO MAINTAIN YOUR ATTITUDES  
TO HOLD YOUR POSITION  
TO DIE BRAVELY**

**BUT MUCH WILL BLIND YOU,  
MUCH WILL EVADE YOU,  
AT WHAT COST WHO KNOWS?**

**THE DOOR ITSELF  
MAKES NO PROMISES.  
IT IS ONLY A DOOR.**