

SOUL, SPIRIT AND STORY**RACHEL FLEMING**

Many people are now calling for a global shift in consciousness – **a new story for mankind**. If we are to do this and hope for a future that is just and sustainable for all, we need to draw on spiritual traditions and indigenous wisdom from around the world and a contemporary understanding of the nature of mind and consciousness. We need to

explore the interface between our inner landscape and the outer world. The social, ecological and economic challenges that face us are a clear demonstration that information and expertise alone will not create the shift we want towards more resilient, creative, equitable and sustainable communities. Instead we need to dig deep to the core of humanity to explore the myths and stories, beliefs and values that define our purpose and action in the world.

“Spiritual values are at the core of human wellbeing. At the root of environmental and social crisis the world is facing a spiritual crisis. To explore the world’s wisdom, tradition and spiritual values is a bold step we can take in the right direction. We need a shift from the old story of materialism to a new story of creating harmony between the material and the spiritual.” - Satish Kumar co-founder of Schumacher College and editor of Resurgence and The Ecologist Magazine.

To find answers to some of the big questions of our time – **Why are we here? How can we live according to our values and beliefs? How do we make a meaningful contribution?** and to

celebrate their 25th birthday this year, Schumacher College is offering a powerful new short course programme. **Soul, Spirit and Story** at the Elmhirst Centre in Dartington, (pictured) the home of Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst pioneers of the ‘Dartington experiment’. It is the latest initiative to continue the rich legacy of radical education, transformation and regeneration that was envisioned here in



the 1920’s by them. The programme looks forward to hosting people from all over the world, from different backgrounds and beliefs: talking, teaching, inspiring, remembering and co-creating the stories of the future.

Early contributors to the programme include Iain McGilchrist, Bruce Lipton, Scilla Elworthy, Anne Baring, Jules Cashford, Matthew Fox, Charles Eisenstein and Colin Campbell. Courses will follow the ‘head, heart and hands’ model of education that Schumacher College has been pioneering for 25 years.

Are you deeply concerned about the state of nature and ready for change both as an individual and as an active agent within our culture? Join our learning community for this pioneering programme in holistic science which completely re-evaluates our scientific understanding of nature, the ecological crisis we face and our role in widespread ecological, economic and social change.

For information about these programmes Visit the website: <http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk>

Rachel Fleming has a background in environmental science and policy & a PhD in ecological risk assessment & pollution control. After senior positions at the Environment Agency and Defra, she realised that education & communication was her best contribution towards positive change. She has founded many sustainable-living publications of her own. She now runs the communications and development work at Schumacher College. <http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk>

