

JAMES ROBERTSON



James, now in his eighties, grew up and went to schools in Scotland and Yorkshire during the war, and then studied classics, history and philosophy (“Mods and Greats”) at Oxford.

In the 1950s he worked in the Colonial Office in Whitehall, as the remaining British colonies came towards independence. Development plans for Mauritius and Seychelles introduced him to the UK Treasury and public policy-making on money. The highlight was travelling with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan on his 1960 ‘Wind of Change’ tour of Africa.

Then three years in the Cabinet Office, working personally with the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service, led to his first book, *Reform of British Central Government* (1971), and eventually to leaving the Civil Service for management consultancy and systems analysis. He then worked for nearly five years setting up and directing an Inter-Bank Research Organisation (IBRO) for the big banks.

In 1973, with Alison Pritchard (later his wife), James started working independently. As a writer and adviser on future economic, social and ecological change, he combined his earlier experience and a new interest in ecology, feminism, futures studies, and the “convivial society” and “small is beautiful” ideas of Ivan Illich and E F Schumacher. His book “*The Sane Alternative*” followed (1978). Then in 1983 James and Alison helped Jonathon Porritt and Paul Ekins to set up The Other Economic Summit (TOES), later the New Economics Foundation.

James has worked and lectured in many countries for many organisations and people, including the World Health Organisation, the European Commission and the OECD. He has written other books and many articles and papers on aspects of sustainable development, government, and money. In 1998 Green Books published his Schumacher Briefing No 1 on “*Transforming Economic Life*”. He hopes his call now to transform the world’s money system will be a fitting successor to it in this Schumacher centenary year.

In 2003 a gold medal citation from Mikhail Gorbachev called James “an outstanding example of a modern thinker at the service of society”.

James and Alison live in Oxfordshire. Until recently they have kept hens and ducks. They still grow vegetables and fruit, and get a modest amount of hot water and electricity from solar panels and photovoltaic (PV) slates.

www.jamesrobertson.com

For publicity enquiries, please contact Stacey Despard:

Email Stacey@greenbooks.co.uk

or phone 01803 863260.