



The AMEDconference 'Exploring Frontiers 2013'



The Langtry Manor Hotel, Bournemouth BH1 3QB, 8-9 October

W: <http://www.langtrymanor.co.uk>

*As leaders, managers and developers,
what are our roles, and
how could we address the key issues
we face in these turbulent times?*

Conference

- *the act of conferring or consulting together, consultation, esp. on an important or serious matter.*
(Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010)

AMEDconference

An AMEDconference is different from the norm. No gurus on a pedestal or podium. Instead, committed and creative peers engaging with each other inclusively in personal and professional development through conversations about themes they're keen to explore. At EF2013, we'll come together for two days as co-inquirers to learn and contribute through Open Space interaction. This is a conference where you really *do* confer! Our venue, The Langtry Manor Hotel, is ideal for our purposes - the former retreat of King Edward VII, which he had built when Prince of Wales to escape the strictures of Victorian London.

How our Open Space is held

Over the two days there will be emerging and shifting clusters of simultaneous open conversations and engagement within a flexible framework around interesting issues. Periodically, we'll share interests, insights and observations with everyone through the Community Bulletin Board and Market Place.

Tuesday 8 October*	Wednesday 9 October*
10:15 am: Arrival and settling in	07:45 am: Breakfast
11:00 Opening, agenda-setting, announcements	09:00: Morning Announcements
11:30: Open Space sessions	09:30: Open Space sessions
1:00 pm: LUNCH	12:00 noon: Celebration and closing
2:15: Open Space sessions; evening news	1:00 pm: Moving on and away
7:15: Informal conversations in the garden, corridors or bar, and personal space, continuing over	*Tea, coffee, water and biscuits will be available throughout. Apart from beginning and closing, timings are provisional.
8:00: DINNER and afterwards	

Our focus in Open Space

In *'Leading from the Emerging Future'*, Otto Scharmer (Scharmer and Kaufer 2013) has called our times 'an age of disruption'. In AMED, we believe that what we do is important. But are we meeting the current and future needs of leaders, managers and wider society? Adopting principles of Open Space, you'll have an opportunity to explore the frontiers of your thinking and practice. No presentations. Instead, multiple conversations and reflections addressing burning issues.

If you haven't yet attended an event inspired by Open Space's four essential principles, here's an idea of how our gathering might work: The main stipulation is **'The Law of Two Feet'**. This states that if, at any time, you find you're not able to learn or contribute in one group, you are responsible for letting your two feet take you somewhere else where your time might be better spent. So be prepared to act as a *'bumble bee'*, buzzing from group to group, cross-pollinating ideas, or as a *'butterfly,'* alighting in random spots, immersed in deep 1:1 conversations or in quiet solitary reflection. So:

- You might offer to convene a theme, sharing your keen interest with others, and facilitating their contributions
- You might simply move freely from one discussion to another, listening or speaking for a while, then moving on again
- You might spend some quiet time on your own, listening to your inner self, or being still.

What might you gain from participating?

One of the principles of Open Space is that *"Whatever happens is the only thing that could have."* So, without trying to pre-judge outcomes, you might....

- Move your thinking / practice closer to a new frontier of learning and development
- Explore issues of prime concern to you
- Experience / explore alternative or complementary ways of thinking to yours
- Engage in meaningful dialogue with fellow professionals
- Co-create new ideas and opportunities for yourself and other people

Co-creating our agenda

People who care passionately about all aspects of Leadership and Development have the right *and* the responsibility to do something about it. You might find some inspiration in recent and forthcoming articles in the AMEDjournal *e-Organisations and People*. However, it's up to you to set the agenda by bringing, and inviting others to discuss, your own burning issues and interests, and to contribute to theirs.

Would you like to know more?

If you'd like more, please **contact Linda Williams** @ the AMED Office. T: +44 (0) 300 365 1247;
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Your **hosts** are the AMED Council, and we look forward to welcoming you.
Please join us in Bournemouth in making a difference.

Getting to the Bournemouth area: <http://www.bournemouth.co.uk/getting-here>