

Bruce Nixon - Veteran change agent, author, writer, speaker and activist

After graduating from Oxford in philosophy, politics and economics, I went to study and work in downtown Los Angeles. I decided I am essentially European and returned to work in London in Personnel Management, first in a biscuit factory and then in frozen food. Then I went to Jamaica for over five years with Alcan and back to Alcan's Head office in London to recruit graduates and executives. Working in Jamaica was a rich transformative experience.

My next move was into the City to work in Management Development. It was an opportunity to learn from a boss who excelled in this field. I led a team who became internal consultants. We took every opportunity to develop ourselves, learning from the best practitioners. Our aim was to help leaders at every level develop their leadership skills and bring about successful strategic change in ways that fully engaged their people. The women in the team ran programmes for women leaders. At that time, the City was a wonderful place to learn how to *work with* resistance! It was not always easy; we learned how to support each other, ways we taught our clients. To reflect and share what we were learning, I wrote articles about our work, our successes and mistakes – is there such a thing? Then I was invited to publish my first book.

Then I started an independent consultancy, *Creating Better Workplaces*, working with colleagues in a wide variety of organisations helping directors and senior managers bring about strategic change and develop empowering cultures. For seven years, with colleagues, I led a development programme for internal and external consultants. I taught at business schools, one with many international students.

I became increasingly interested in transformative, servant leadership and global issues, especially the environmental crisis, and economic and social injustice. Working with directors and senior managers, I asked myself “*Why is it these good people, so often, are not doing the right thing?*”

I gave up consulting and now my work is about helping people create a sustainable, just and non-violent world in which we live in harmony with our fellow human beings, the earth and all life on it. I visited India and Cuba to study sustainable food production and a different form of democracy. Several return visits to Jamaica increased my anger about the global economic system. Acting out anger is harmful; but anger can provide energy to change things for the better. My last visit inspired me to write my fourth book, *Living System*. I am passionately interested in our beautiful, extraordinary planet and how we can create a world fit for everyone on Earth and future generations. I am an enthusiastic member of our increasingly successful Transition Town Berkhamsted. I have five children, four grandchildren. My partner is a New England American so I am well-travelled in North America. I was born and grew up in Wirral, Merseyside.