

**Poems, Art Works and Architecture...**  
**Festive entertainment...**

DiPs at *The Blue Mugge* pub Mon 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Our final before Xmas break session will follow the pattern of recent years. Our ever helpful hosts at *The Mugge* will provide festive refreshments to follow our very brief discussions on:

Two poems; two paintings; a photo of a ceramic work; the Leek War Memorial...

Facilitators this evening: Derek, Erica, Yvonne and the absent Les....

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1 We start though with a sombre reflection: Stephen Hawking said last week that “We are at the most dangerous moment in the development of humanity”. These dark and dangerous times make our regular discussions of the big issues facing us even more relevant and important in 2017

2. Our poems arguably connect with this theme:

a) **Satyre III** from poem by **John Donne**

“On a huge hill,  
Cragged and steep, Truth stands, and hee that will  
Reach her, about must and about must goe;  
And what the hills suddennes resists, winne so.”

The idea of circling round big issues to get nearer the truth through debate and discussion has a long educational history... This helps us in our DiPs/PiPs etc discussion networks

b) **Days** by **Philip Larkin**

“What are days for?  
Days are where we live.  
They come, they waken us  
Time and time over.  
They are to be happy in:  
Where can we live but days?  
  
Ah, solving that question  
Brings the priest and the doctor  
In their long gowns  
Running over the fields.

The second verse manages ‘to make the pregnant phrase “in their long gowns” resonant of a lot more than itself’ (Terry Eagleton in *How to Read a Poem*).

3. Paintings:

a) **Lucas Cranach** Portrait Diptych, *Maria Luther and his wife Katharine von Bora* (1529, Oil and tempera).

b) **Picasso** *Weeping Woman* (1937, Oil on canvas)

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See on Web... bring copies if you can but no pressure - copy/ies available on the night...

4. Photo provided by Les (absent this evening): Neolithic earthenware pottery work from the Banshan period, C2,600 > 2,300BC.

5. The Leek War Memorial i) Its importance for memorialisation  
ii) Its significance as a work of architecture

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A short review of topics and themes for 2017, followed by relaxed festive refreshment and drinks...

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