

**Discussion in Pubs (DiPs) at The Blue Mugge pub, Osborne Street, Leek.  
Programme September – December 2017**

We've been running open discussions on big issues at The Blue Mugge for twelve years. What began in September 2005 as an experiment is now well established and not just in Leek – we have sister Discussion in Pubs (DiPs) at The Lazy Trout in Meerbrook and at The Park Tavern, Macclesfield. Elsewhere over the last decade similar discussion circles/groups have grown, notably Philosophy in Pubs (PiPs) which began on Merseyside in 2000 and are now national. Following Brexit and Trump these non-party, un-sectarian, gatherings are part of the 'below-the-radar' groundswell of support for open participative everyday democracy (see RWF website below for evidence on this...)

The Mugge sessions run on Monday evenings, fortnightly, as below. We share the aims of the BBC's Radio 4 programme *The Philosopher's Arms*: "A place where moral dilemmas, philosophical ideas and the real world meet for a chat and a drink." We quite frequently take a broadcast from Melvyn Bragg's *In our Time* (IoT) series as a stimulus, also using other media and web resources. Themes may be contentious and controversial but our discussions are invariably tolerant, good humoured and inclusive. Everybody welcome - just turn up at any of the sessions. Free of charge! Notes to help inform and focus the discussions are usually sent out a few days in advance of each meeting. The sessions begin at 7.45pm and run for about an hour and a half.

If you are interested please contact derektatton@btinternet.com: phone 01538 528178 or just turn up.

- Mon 18th September    **Brexit & Trump** – an up-date    (Chomsky on YouTube)
- Mon 2nd October        Stephen Hawking on **The Cosmos** - an update. (The Park Inn, Macclesfield)
- Mon 16th October      The importance of **Local Democracy & Regionalism - UK Federalism?** (RWF web)
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October      **The Chartist Riots in Burslem, 1842.** (*The Leopard Inn*, Lecture and Big Screen Presentation, August 2017)
- Mon 13th November    **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** – a UK public consultation (RWF)
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> November    **The Human Brain** - DiPs 'Conscienceness' revisited... (BBC 4, **The Brain**, with David Eagleman, 6 part series, Aug 2017)
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> December    **Cartoons** - Steve Bell (*Guardian*); Matt (*Telegraph*); *Private Eye*: on gender issues & Xmas themes.

The above topics may be changed to topics below if the group wish:

Future topics: *What does Pottery teach us about who we are? Archaeology, Anthropology and Aesthetic issues; Fashion Houses (from The Trout, Meerbrook) Truth and post-Truth... Hate and Anger; IKEA and modern Culture; Utopias & Dystopias (from The Park...): The Matter of the North – Melvyn Bragg radio series; Dark Matter- IoT, March 2015; Factory Music and Why Music Matters - from Thinking Allowed, Radio 4.; Students and Free Speech; Masculinity (from Park discussions); Universal Minimum Income; Selection of a topic to re-visit an earlier theme (three suggestions from our web archive):*

Most of the above have been suggested by *Mugge* participants. Volunteers to do notes and lead sessions most welcome – please contact me as above.

For more information on aims, history and archive visit [www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.raymondwilliamsfoundation.org.uk) and follow link to pub discussions... DT