

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

**January – April 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](mailto:derektatton@btinternet.com) - phone 01538 528178 or just turn up.

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> January**     **Donald Trump.**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> February**     **What does Pottery teach us about who we are?**     *Archaeology, Anthropology and Aesthetic issues*

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> February**     **Truth and post-Truth...**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March**     **Hate and Anger**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March**     **IKEA and modern Culture**

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> April**     **Larkin – the man and 3 poems.**

Easter break

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

**Future topics?**

*Utopias & Dystopias (from The Park...): The Cosmos – up-date (IoT); Fashion Houses (from The Trout); 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; UK Federalism. 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...

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