

PLYMSTOCK & DISTRICT U3A

DISCUSSION GROUP

RECORD OF PAST MEETINGS - 2013

1st August 2013

Present :-

Dudley Tolkien (DT)

Margaret Connolly (MC)

Bette Thomas (BT)

Tony Starkey (TS)

Questions asked :-

DT – At what point does the democratic process become undemocratic?

MC – Should marriage be abolished?

BT – Should religious leaders get involved in politics?

TS – What would happen if a government imposed a minimum income of £20K pa and a maximum income of £200K pa?

DT – What was your most jaw-dropping sporting moment?

5th September 2013

Present :-

Dudley Tolkien (DT)

Margaret Connolly (MC)

Bette Thomas (BT)

Tony Starkey (TS)

Norma Gayton (NG)

Questions asked :-

DT – Lord Paddy Ashdown said after last week’s Commons vote on Syria: “The Geneva Convention is now a dead letter”. Was he exaggerating?

NG – Considering the UK’s economy is getting going at last, why is it that more and more of the UK population are falling below the income level required to have a reasonable standard of living?

BT – Are visible tattoos acceptable when employment involves dealing with the public?

MC – Should the decision on badger culls be left in the hands of those in charge of the countryside?

TS – Do you think the three armed forces should be merged into a single defence force?

3rd October 2013

Present :-

Dudley Tolkien (DT)

Margaret Connolly (MC)

David Salmon (DS)

Norma Gayton (NG)

Questions asked :-

DT – Regarding climate change, and the extent to which it has been mankind induced, on a scale of 1-10, where 1=total rejection and 10=total acceptance, where do you place yourself and why?

DS – The European Parliament is pursuing a proposal to force all member states to impose quotas to include Romani women in positions of influence. Should this be allowed?

DS – If you could have any super-human power, what would it be?

MC – Should the Plymouth Civic Centre be classified as a listed building?

NG – Is it not unfair that the Government is investing in HS2, whilst ignoring the state of transport infra-structure in the south-west?

DT - Do you believe we are living through a golden age, and why?

7th November 2013

Present :-

Margaret Connolly (MC)

Norma Gayton (NG)

Enid Neil (EN)

Tony Starkey (TS)

Bette Thomas (BT)

Questions asked :-

MC - Is it right that parents encourage their children to believe in Father Christmas, elves, fairies and other mythical beings when it would seem to be a lesson in how to tell convincing lies ?

NG - David Cameron is on Radio Cornwall today being questioned on what he is doing for the Southwest . What do you think is the most important issue?

EN - Should we take humanity for granted?

TS - Considering that India has spent £45 million in sending a space probe to Mars; how can our government justify their intention to continue giving aid to India amounting to £380 million each year until 2015?

BT - Should the wearing of burkas in the UK be banned?

5th December 2013

Present :-

Dudley Tolkien (DT)

Margaret Connolly (MC)

Bette Thomas (BT)

Tony Starkey (TS)

Norma Gayton (NG)

Enid Neil (EN)

Questions asked :-

DT – Since 1945, who on the world stage do you regard as the greatest hero, and the greatest villain, and why? NB. The popular choice for greatest hero was Nelson Mandela, just hours before his death was announced later that day.

TS – Given that the birth rate of non-white immigrant communities is apparently far greater than that of the native white population, it is inevitable that eventually the majority of the population will be non-white. When do you think this will happen, and do you think it will have much effect on our culture and general way of life?

EN – If you could rid the world of one thing, what would it be?

NG – If you were given a free holiday for Christmas, where would you go, and why?

MC – In what way has lack of freedom of speech affected our society?

BT – Should the NHS provide finance for every aspect of one's health?