



Report of meeting held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ
Present: Janos, Mary (notes), William, Ellena, Liliias. Paul. Apologies: John Mc, Ashburn, Philip, Ahmet.

Janos explained about the history of this group, when Peter Challen stopped attending, and instead hosts ICUK meetings (which used to be on Wednesdays at 10am at this venue) at another venue nearby at the same time as ours, we decided to call ourselves the Open Research Group. Pete the Shovel took a lead, he is interested in Astro-Theology, but now attends Clive's Free Critical Thinking meetings from 7pm to 9pm on Tuesdays, now held at the London School of Mosaic, near Gospel Oak. So the question is, whether we change from just having an interesting discussion, as we have been doing all along, to having a more focussed discussion.

Ellena described how they run meetings at Findhorn, which begin with a go-round, which might be very brief, then the topic, but at any time "personal disturbance comes first", which means that any interruption is acknowledged as important by the presenter, and they also had sessions called a Sharing where more time was allowed for personal issues. Janos said that this is the difference between a research group and a self-help group, and we should not be mixing the two, because at the moment, personal issues are overlaying the task-focused issues.

HOUSING

Mary reported the Renegade Inc programme about Housing: **Renegade Inc: Mon 9th Oct 2017:** *"Today there is no more controversial issue in Britain than housing. Depending on when and where you were born, you've either been lucky, disadvantaged or plain dispossessed. It's become the ultimate postcode lottery. Applying 'free market' economic principles, successive UK governments have gradually privatized social housing stock and marginalized those who can least afford it. So on this week's show we ask how as a nation we got into this mess and where next for the Great British Housing Sell-Off? Host Ross Ashcroft talks with the author and sociologist Lisa Mackenzie and the filmmaker Paul Sng who, earlier this year, released his film 'Dispossessed – The Great Social Housing Swindle'".* <https://www.rt.com/shows/renegade-inc/406107-free-market-economic-uk/>

The post-war settlement enabled Local Authorities to build social housing, which had the effect of developing strong communities, alongside the privately owned and privately rented sectors., the latter was controlled by a legal ceiling on levels of rent. Margaret Thatcher's "right to buy" disrupted the balance of provision between these three sectors that, and resulted in more and more people taking on mortgage debt, and because local authorities were not able to replace the housing stock, it has also caused scarcity, and rich people were encouraged to invest in the housing market and become private landlords. William added that huge tracts of traditional housing, which could have been repaired were knocked down, and tower blocks were built, the main driver being profit-making for developers, resulting in such atrocities as the Grenfell Tower disaster. Tony Blair's Labour Party were co-opted into this plan, which they accepted in order to get into power, and left wing opposition to this continued agenda continues to be demonised.

Ellena talked about the Pullens Estate near Elephant & Castle, which was built in Victorian times by James Pullen, a poor man from that area who went to Australia, made money by selling water to the gold-diggers, came back with a pot of money and built architecturally sympathetic houses, which were thriving mutually-supportive communities. They began to be demolished in the 60s in favour of tower blocks. A pause during demolition, enabled squatters who were artists to move in, and by the time they were ready to resume the demolition programme, there was a protest movement, which was successful, and some of these buildings survive: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pullens_buildings • <http://www.exploringsouthwark.co.uk/pullens-estate/4591957956>

Lilias told us about a meeting from 6.30pm to 8pm today hosted by London CND at Portcullis House. <http://unitingforpeace.com/leaflets%20and%20flyers/2017/un-symposium-2017.pdf> and Uniting for Peace at the Hilton in Euston on Thu 12th Oct from 6.30pm until 9pm. The next CND conference on Cooperation in Dangerous Times on Sat 14th Oct 2017: <http://www.cnduk.org/cnd-media/item/3540>. She also read out a letter by Claire Turner, CND vice-chair of London CND about campaigns for peace in Korea, and also read an extra from Peace Link, the newsletter of London Region CND about Costa Rica having abolished its army in 1949.

Lilias says Costa Rica does not fit into this, Janos says it's a tiny pilot-light, would such nations be allowed to influence other nations. The international Green Party congress in May, in Liverpool - <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/conference/>

FUTURE OF THIS GROUP

Janos wants to talk about whether we take on the agenda of discussing twelve fundamental topics, and the idea of members of the group taking on responsibility for presenting on certain topics, Economics, Psychology, Science, Health, Social Development, Symbiosophy (self-development), Esoterics, Arts, Faiths, Education, Politics, and Philosophy.

Ellena says that she would not be able to commit herself to taking on study, she would be happy to listen to what others have to say. Mary had already advised him that if he wants to discuss particular topics he would need to prepare and present papers in the context of this meeting the way it evolves. He wants to understand how states have interests, they are an a-human machinery, it's an abstract notion, governed by realpolitik.

Lilias says she is interested in "Faiths" and "Arts". Williams says they all converge, he likes all of them, but is particularly drawn to "Faiths". Paul wonders what the difference between Esoterics and Faiths is, but says most of the topics are of interest to him. Janos says that Esoterics is the internal side, the subjects can be grouped in different ways, his own favourite is "Economics". He wants the topics to be covered during a period of 12 weeks, after which we would start the cycle again. We would contribute to everyone's enrichment, it's the concept of a mandala. **Mary** says she is interested in a variety of topics, her degree subject was Psychology, currently she focuses on Politics and Economics, but she feels the 12-week cycle of the mandala is too rigid, and we should work flexibly.

William says he would like Janos to present topics, he can decide his starting point and give a presentation about what he wants to say. Janos has taken over responsibility and he needs to take charge. So next week he will talk about the need to understand one subject as being one aspect of all other subjects, the Theorem of Holistic Knowledge.