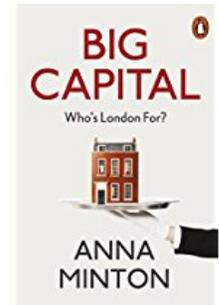


Report of meeting held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ
See: **Notes of Open Research Group meeting on 29th Nov 2017: [OpenResearchGroup-171129](#)**

Present: Janos (chair), William, Bob, Alexandra (Sandra) MacCrae (from Dundee), Mary (notes), Ellena, Paul, Ashburn – Apologies: Ahmet, John Mc, Philip, Liliias, Steve, Trevor.

Discussion on Housing: we had a lively discussion on whether it's legal to have a lodger, Land Value Tax, Right to Buy, Grenfell Tower. Sandra was able to cast light on differences in Scottish legislation. Bob says he is reading, and recommends "Big Capital" by Anna Minton: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jun/12/big-capital-who-is-london-for-anna-minton-review> • <https://www.annaminton.com>



William continued on Cost of Energy, **Global Warming** (is it real), pollution from diesel, and government propaganda. Global warming is to do with making money from carbon tax. He says the sensors measuring global warming are in areas of high population, so they indicate warming. Paul replied that he has seen a recent photo of a glacier in Sweden, with the ice obviously receding, and another from Tierra de Fuego, the ice shelf in Antarctica is retreating rapidly. William agreed there has been some melting which is to do with the sunspot cycle, but we are about to go into an ice age, and that even solar panels are to do with making money.

Continuing to discuss Energy, William said only a seventh of the energy being used is domestic consumption and could be provided by non-centralised sources. Ellena says we should use less, but Paul says the demand is higher during the day, but photovoltaic energy can be put into a national grid.

Sandra has some knowledge of Ghana from her frequent visits there, where the population is on the increase, and mentioned a scheme they have devised using hand-held solar power devices. They had a meeting with the powers-that-be there, who said they had considered combining oil and solar power, also like what they are doing in Orissa, India. The problem is conserving the energy gained during the hours of sunlight. The science of creating batteries has evolved, and there are now factories creating giant batteries to conserve energy, so local communities should be able to source their own power. Paul said photo-voltaic panels are not the only way of converting sunlight into energy, there is another system being trialled in Africa. There are proposals to have banks of these devices producing the energy which can be transmitted to areas of high population, this would have the effect of reducing dependence on petroleum. Tesla was believed to be the originator of various different devices generating energy, but his funding was pulled - it was alleged that Russian investigators went to speak to his surviving workers so that they could replicate what he was doing – that knowledge has been lost, but is probably known to the authorities. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-5Buq5-U5s>

Inequality: Mary had attended, with John Courtneidge, on Monday 4/12/2017, a meeting entitled "Ending the Mercenary Society" with speaker Will Hutton, hosted by My Fair London: <http://www.myfairlondon.org.uk> – which is affiliated to the Equality Trust: <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk>, both inspired by Kate Picket and Richard Wilkinson's 2009 publication "*The Spirit Level - Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better*": <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/resources/the-spirit-level> - and it was agreed that Housing was a major factor in this. Sandra offered to send further information about Social Housing, which we could discuss at the next meeting.

