



Monday 3rd July 2017
The Lion Hotel

Summary

o Introduction

13 members attended to discuss the following topics.

Margaret H

o Discussion Topics

Would you be prepared to launch a drone strike against someone in Syria who is plotting bomb attacks in Britain?

- There were mixed responses to this, some would but many had reservations, what about collateral damage, how many innocent civilians would be killed, is it right to execute someone without a trial? We moved on to terrorism in the UK and should universities be used as spies again there were opposing views.

Should airline passengers be allowed to recline their seats if it discomforts the person behind them?

- Opinion was that the person behind should be asked but that space on planes was too restricted particularly for people with long legs.

Do you have a positive or negative impression of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange?

- It was thought that agents may have been killed through the leaks but he wasn't the traitor just someone who allowed secret information to be made public. The cost of policing was a factor in how we felt about him.

Has Britain become a classless society?

- We felt that it hadn't, someone with enormous amounts of money would not be admitted into the upper class, it would have to be old money, inherited wealth. We found it difficult to define class, did it depend on accent, choice of books, art, music, work, education? We agreed that we found our friends amongst people who shared our values and interests and 'class' didn't matter.

Is it democratic for a minority party to buy votes in order to push through otherwise unpopular policies?

- This was related to the deal that has been done between the Tories and the DUP. We felt this wasn't democracy but some thought it was better than another election. But it was felt wrong that tax payers' money should be spent to keep one party in power. As is often the case we widened the discussion to include young voters, boundary changes, poll tax and it was concluded that politics is dirty and often not democratic.

Should cellophane wrapping be banned in places of public entertainment?

- We all agreed that noisy food and drink is very distracting at a film, concert, talk or ballet, one member had even had wine spilled over her! Cinemas make a lot of money from selling popcorn and the rest so will never ban food and drink. The OMH is probably our safest bet!

How did we feel about a man being sentenced to 5 months in prison for shooting a cat that was killing wild birds?

- Many of us are cat and bird lovers, cats unlike dogs can't be trained so we feed the birds and hope that this compensates for the ones that fall victim. We felt that that the sentence was harsh. We discussed out different attitudes to different animals, why do we eat cow but not horse?

○ Future Topics

The list of topics has been exhausted. If you have any suggestions, especially last-minute topical issues, please email vivienne.barker@gmail.com

○ Next Meeting

The next Café Society meeting will be on Monday 7th August at 10.00am at The Lion Hotel (Tudor Bar room). Denise M has kindly volunteered to compile the discussion summary at this next meeting.

