

Educational Association

Exchange/Forum

The **Exchange/Forum** is an informal gathering held on the first Wednesday of the month, at the **Mezzanine Gallery, Granary Cafe, Berwick**, 10.30 -12 noon. Do join us for a coffee and a chat followed by a group discussion on a previously agreed topic sometimes introduced by a volunteer giving a short talk. Future themes and leaders will be agreed at each gathering: please email ideas and offers to lead, to **Julie Gibbs, Mailing Secretary, juliegibbs1@btinternet.com** . Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book. In the event of a designated speaker cancelling, the session will revert to open discussion.

Wednesday 1st November 2017 - "How can we save the welfare state?" led by Pam Vassie

Wednesday 6 December 2017 - 'Berwickish for all levels'. A lighthearted look at the history of some Berwick words and how they are used, with a chance to practise using them, led by Andy Knight.

Ideas for future sessions:

- *Nature conservation
- *Green issues (e.g. are wind-farms an asset or an inefficient blot on the countryside?)
- *Mini 'Desert Island Disc's - a number of people to introduce their favourite book, piece of music, a luxury etc. and say whether they would try to escape or not - no longer than 10 minutes each.
- *What historical character you would most like to meet or be and why?
- *My perfect place.
- *My greatest unfulfilled ambition.
- *The five things I most value in life.
- *World religions.
- *History of food.
- *One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist? **A ten minute talk by Maurice Ward**
- *Does nationalism lead to racism?
- *Class or status?-How do we rate people in Britain today? **A talk led by Maurice Ward**
- *Trade unions- scourge or saviours?
- *The Border Reivers- the Debateable Lands- was there a "good side"
- *Helen Duncan : The last woman imprisoned as a witch (She was a Scottish woman interned during the Second World War as she allegedly "saw" things in seances which were under a Government interdict. She even allegedly saw the sinking of a British warship which the Admiralty was desperate to keep under wraps. So they imprisoned her! This could lead to a discussion of psychic powers - do they exist? - have any of the group had experience thereof? **Talk led by Richard Moore.**
- *Women Poisoners - Concentrating on three : Mary Blandy, Adelaide Bartlett and Madeleine Smith - This would lead to discussion - e.g. why do (some) people resort to poison? Why is it regarded especially as a woman's crime and is this fair? How should crimes of passion be viewed? Is there such a thing as a criminal gene? Would everyone be prepared to kill under certain circumstances etc.? Should life mean life? **Talk led by Richard Moore**