

## **Programme for 2026**

**9 January 2026**

**“It’s a wonderful life.” Discuss.**

What will we make of this topic? Do we appreciate what a wonder life is? What do we do if it all seems a mess?

**16 January 2026**

**“The day I joined the Navy” – My first job.**

John will tell us about the experience of his first day in the Royal Navy. The rest of us will recall our own experiences when we started our first jobs.

**23 January 2026**

**Do retirees contribute to society?**

When we retire and draw a pension are we simply a drain on the country’s resources, or do we still have a role to play?

**30 January 2026**

**Do we understand risk?**

We can become very agitated about some sources of risk, while blithely accepting others. Is our attitude a sensible one?

**6 February 2026**

**Was Brexit worth it?**

Brexit has happened. Maybe not how we thought or hoped it would. What has it cost us and was it worth it?

**13 February 2026**

**Do we need a form of “Social National Service”?**

Should we encourage or compel people to perform services of benefit to society? Could we reward this service in some way?

**20 February 2026**

**Free will**

Philosophers have argued about whether we have free will. Some think it is an illusion and the future is predetermined. How does this affect our behaviour?

**27 February 2026**

**Overseas aid. Help or hindrance?**

Our country provides aid to developing countries. Does it really help them? Do we (should we?) get value for the cost of providing aid?

**6 March 2026**

**Why are we so worried about ID cards?**

Would a requirement for citizens to have an ID card be an invasion of privacy? Would it matter when so many of us share much of our personal data anyway?

**13 March 2026**

**Is humanity sowing the seeds of its own destruction?**

How much does humanity’s presence on the planet damage the natural world? Should we be changing our behaviour?

**20 March 2026**

**Has professional sport sold its soul for corporate riches?**

**27 March 2026**

**Should politicians have had a “proper job”?**

Politicians are often criticised for having gone straight from university to politics without ever having experienced the “real” world. Should they be required to have had a career elsewhere before taking power? What would constitute a “proper job”?

**3 April 2026**

**Good Friday – no meeting**

**10 April 2026**

**Why do some people never have enough money?**

Some wealthy people seem to have a need to acquire more wealth, even though they are richer than nearly everybody else. Why? Are the rest of us just jealous?

**17 April 2026**

**Why does power so often corrupt?**

Many of those who achieve great power end up abusing it. Why?

**24 April 2026**

**Is sin an anachronism?**

Is the concept of sin something that has been lost or replaced by our concepts of illegality or criminality? Do people feel shame any more?

**1 May 2026**

**If you could have another go at life, would you still choose the same job?**

Any of us might choose to be a rock star or a professional sports person. But what other career choices could we have made? Did we choose our jobs or did our jobs choose us?

**8 May 2026**

**“One year in my life”**

Was there one particular time in your life that was the most significant? Will you share that with the group?

**15 May 2026**

**Planning meeting**

We will put together our programme for the Autumn, and find a couple of topics to take us through June and July.

**22 May 2026**

**Has Britain ever been prepared for war?**

At the start of both WW1 and WW2, the country was unprepared for conflict. Has this always been the case? Is it still the case now?