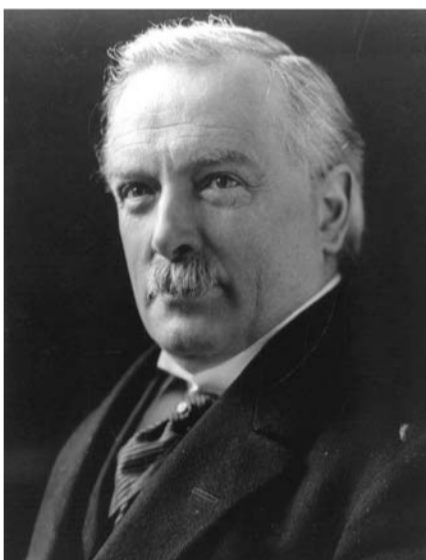


Library Group Meetings

Nine well attended meetings were enjoyed at Mandeville Place on Friday afternoons during the autumn, a tenth had to be postponed due to the severe snow and traffic disruption in December.

Canon Peter Challen began the series with a challenging talk that described a wide range of work and studies that are being carried out throughout the world by a variety of environmental groups and social justice activists. He identified much common ground, suggesting scope for wider cooperation. Jason Whitmore from Motherlode followed with a fascinating presentation outlining how modern internet based visual communication techniques and strategies should be used to attract the interest of a younger generation.

Dr Joseph Milne's talk entitled 'From Aquinas to Hobbs: The Loss of the Ethical Vision of Nature' explored how the western understanding of nature underwent a radical change in the 17th Century and how this profoundly affected the conceptions of society, natural law and the common good. He showed how, thankfully, Henry George's understanding of natural law harmonised more closely with that of the earlier philosophers.



Roy Douglas provided a stimulating historical perspective on economic developments during critical periods of the last century with particular examples drawn from the experiences of David Lloyd George and Philip Snowden. Haydon Bradshaw

then considered matters pertaining to market equilibrium and highlighted the difference between commodity markets where a decline in price stimulates demand and financial markets where the opposite is evident.

We enjoyed 'A Tirade on Revolution and Economic Justice in the 21st Century' from John Cormack who pulled no punches in promoting the practicability of the 'Single Tax' solution. A more academic approach was provided by Brian Hodgkinson as he analysed the current state of affairs and suggested a well reasoned programme of reform entitled. David Mills provided practical advice and interesting political insights whilst considering a transition to LVT.

John De Val concluded the series with a stimulating, amusing and informative session devoted to 'Cambridge's Contribution to Economics' that encompassed the works of

Newton, Bacon and Malthus as well as Marshall, Pigou, Keynes and others.

Friday Evening Programme

There were three elements to the ten Friday evening sessions during the autumn programme.

The first five sessions were devoted to a series of presentations drawn from Henry George's book 'Social Problems'. Each week a single chapter from the book was read and discussed with a different presenter. John Barnes, Peter Bowman, Tomas Graves, Jonathan Nicols and David Triggs were the presenters.

Reading and listening to George is, it seems always a revelation. When practised with a group the power can be quite astounding and so it proved week after week as we explored 'Social Problems'. In a short preface George says 'This book was written in New York in 1883, which will explain references that are made in its pages to time and place. My endeavour has been to present the momentous social problems of the day unencumbered by technicalities and without that abstract reasoning which some of the principles of political economy require for thorough explanation.' The wonder

is that time and again one is stunned to discover that the

issues he addressed nearly one hundred and thirty years ago are still with us in much the same form that he recognised and addressed them. More wonderful still is to see how appropriate his remedies still seem to be. This should not of course really be a surprise since what he reveals again and again is a truth about the human condition that satisfies both the intellect, the heart and the spirit that moves each of us.



A single session was devoted to the subject of Taxation and Unemployment as a General Meeting with the Coalition for Economic Justice. Here it became very clear how taxes that are levied on employment, trade and value added all damage the opportunities for productive employment and are destructive of society.

The new four session course on Political Economy represents an attempt to present in a very concise, simple and modern way the essence of Henry George's teaching on the subject. It was very well received and with further refinement will be presented again in the near future. It will also form the basis of a new elementary textbook or primer that is long overdue.