

Current Affairs Group

The Current Affairs Group meets on the 4th Friday of each month at a private venue.

We have enjoyed an interesting and varied programme during 2006. Here is an outline of our 2006 meetings to date.

Dr Alan Dunkley came along in February and showed us slides of a recent visit to Nepal. The views were often breathtaking whilst the simple uncomplicated life styles of the local people proved a sharp contrast to our own.

One of our Group members, Gordon Sandys-Lumsdaine, born and raised in Argentina, came along in March to bring us 'up-to-date' on conditions in that country following his latest visit there. His talk proved very interesting and informative and, despite the well-documented problems of the past 20-30 years, life for most Argentinians seems to be improving.

We were fortunate in April to have another of our Group members, Peter Stonestreet, come along with his projector to show us aspects of his recent visit to Bangladesh. This proved very fascinating, not only from the visual delights of the country and people, but also from Peter's enthusiastic and stimulating commentary. He has a unique style!

For our June meeting we decided to have a debate relating to the very topical issue of the conflict between civil liberties and the recent introduction of harsher anti-terrorist laws by the Government. An interesting and intelligent discussion ensued, with various opinions expressed, but it was generally felt that if these new laws helped to prevent a repetition of the awful events of last July then they could be considered necessary.

We had arranged for Canon Andrew White to attend our July meeting at which he was due to express his opinions on Iraq on which he has considerable knowledge, having spent much of his time in recent years residing in Baghdad as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Personal Representative in the Middle East. Unfortunately the onset of the latest Middle East crisis put paid to that. We are very much hoping he will be able to come along later in the year. In the event we had a lively and thorough discussion on the new Israel-Lebanon-Hisbollah 'flare-up', but our conclusion as to the future in that part of the world was mainly pessimistic.

In January and May we reverted to our tried and tested 'newspaper' format, where we all bring along a wide range of newspapers and discuss news items of interest. As usual this proved very stimulating and enjoyable.

Our membership is virtually full but if anybody is interested in going on our 'Reserve' list please contact David Lush on (01428) 725166.