

Report for the Philosophy Group Tuesday 24th February by Ray and Jenny Lee

A lively group joined in a discussion about the philosophy of time. Firstly, we attempted to define what we understood about time. The group went on to discuss the history of the philosophy of time which stretches right the way back to Parmenides who was a philosopher in about the year 600 BCE. We also discussed the contributions of Aristotle and Plato to the debate.

Next, we went on to outline the three main theories of time. The first of these is Presentism. This is the view that only the present exists. According to this theory, past entities no longer exist and future entities do not yet exist. The second theory is Eternalism. In this theory events in the past are just as real as events in the present. Future events are also real even if we haven't reached them yet. Eternalism is often associated with what is called the B theory of time. The third theory outlined the most current ideas linked to Einstein's theory of relativity. This theory is called the Growing Block Theory. It depends upon the idea that time is a dimension which is dependent upon gravity and speed of travel. This is called space-time. In the growing block theory, the past and present are real but the future is not yet and there are many possibilities for it.

We finished with a quote from Dylan Thomas.

Time sings

Like the intricately dead snowdrop.

Listen

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 – 12noon at Enterprise House. Do come and join us. 24th March Human Rights with Pete Redgrave.