

THE EPISTLE

Brighton Secular Humanists



December 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

Season's Greetings!



Welcome to this new-look version of the Brighton Secular Humanists Newsletter. We've had some very interesting talks already since our new season of events began in September and as I write we're looking forward to the "Jesus Never Existed" debate featuring our old friend Ken Humphreys and our speaker from Catholic Voices, Peter D. Williams. In January we will begin 2018 with a timely look at Humanism. What is it? What do we each mean by it? What does it mean to each of us? We'll have a look at the four short HumanistsUK animated films voiced by Stephen Fry. Then four BSH members will give their perspective before the discussion is opened up. I'm delighted to say that attendance numbers at our meetings have considerably increased this year and looking at the programme for 2018 I see no reason why that shouldn't continue. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the Committee, of wishing you all the season's greetings and a very happy New Year.

Maggie Hall (Chair)

Winter GetTogether

Just a reminder that our hardworking Treasurer Bob and his charming wife Mo have again been kind

enough to offer to host our seasonal social event at their home in Shoreham. Last year's event was thoroughly enjoyable and I'd advise everyone not to miss this one. It's on Saturday 9th December 2017, from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm (address on application). Contributions towards catering of up to £5.00 welcome; please indicate any special dietary requirements. RSVP please to: Tel. 01273 591891.

The "War on Christmas" is Coming!

Just to warn you! How should we respond to it? Laugh at it? Ignore it? This article on it is a pretty good read: <http://www.secularism.org.uk/opinion/2017/11/the-war-on-christmas-is-coming>

Musical Seasonal Offer from John Webster

You may remember that back in June we were treated to a very interesting lecture on Percy Bysshe Shelley from John Webster, who also showed us a short film featuring some of his musical settings of his verse. He has now put together a collection featuring lyrics by Keats, Byron, Shelley and Leigh Hunt. It includes two of the Shelley songs from the presentation he gave. Information can be found at www.thefirstfabfour.co.uk



In this issue:

Season's Greetings! 1

BBC Radio 4 "Thought for the Day" 1

Bits and Bobs 2

Brighton Secular Humanists hold regular public meetings and social events. We also publish a free newsletter for members. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, except August, at 7:30pm for an 8pm start at The King & Queen pub, 13-17 Marlborough Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1UB, about ten minutes' walk from Brighton Station. The meetings usually take the form of a talk, followed by questions and discussion, but occasionally we have a debate or special event. Admission is free, although we do ask for a small voluntary contribution towards venue hire, and the meetings are open to all. We are affiliated to the British Humanist Association and the National Secular Society.

BBC Radio Four – Thought for the Day



Since the TFTD slot on Radio Four's "Today" programme has been described by one of its

presenters, John Humphrys as "deeply boring", I thought you might like the opportunity to help make it more interesting by voting in the Radio Times poll to tell them you would like it to be enlivened by some secular content. At the moment 51.86% have voted to keep it as it is and only 25.88% to include secular views (22.26% have voted to scrap it altogether). Clearly not

enough secularists read the Radio Times. Here is the link if you want to have your say: <http://www.radiotimes.com/news/radio/2017-10-30/does-thought-for-the-day-still-have-a-place-on-the-today-programme/>



Brighton Secular Humanists

SECRETARY

Valerie Mainstone
Telephone: 01273 729311
valerie.mainstone@googlemail.com

VENUE:

The King & Queen pub
13-17 Marlborough Place
Brighton, East Sussex
BN1 1UB



Founded 1958



APPROVED CEREMONY CELEBRANTS

Valerie Mainstone
Telephone: 01273 729311
valerie.mainstone@googlemail.com

Maggie Hall
Telephone: 01903 813953
magihall@bopenworld.com

<http://www.brightonhumanists.org>
[www.facebook.com/
BrightonSecularHumanists](http://www.facebook.com/BrightonSecularHumanists)
<https://twitter.com/BHumanists>

Living without religion. Challenging Religious Privilege.



It's that time again!

Bits and Bobs

CORE Consultation

The Commission on Religious Education is currently running a consultation on its Interim Report. This is an opportunity for secularists to put their views. There is an informative article on the NSS website here: <http://www.secularism.org.uk/opinion/2017/11/who-controls-religious-education>. You can find out more and contribute to the consultation here: <http://www.commissiononre.org.uk/consultation-interim-report>

HumanistsUK Darwin Day Lecture

HumanistsUK (formerly the British Humanist Association) has announced its next Darwin Day Lecture in London on 8th February 2018 on the subject of "The Evolution of Human Morality", to be given by Dr Diana Fleischman and chaired by Professor Jim Al-Khalili. You can find further information and buy tickets here: <https://humanism.org.uk/events/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=312>

Committee: The following volunteering opportunities are available:

Technical Assistant: We really need someone who is au fait with technical matters, particularly the use of audio and video equipment, to assist our Technical Officer, Robert, at our meetings and also to stand in for him should he be unavailable.

Education Officer: We are seeking someone, preferably with a background or some experience in education, to help us develop an outreach programme for schools and colleges to help teach about Humanism.

Campaigns Officer: Someone who will monitor the local news and help us flag up relevant local issues with the local press, radio etc., eg: in regard to issues like faith schools, religious education, examples of undue religious privilege, equality issues, etc.

If you are interested in helping us in any of those please contact any member of the Committee.