

120

**Celebrating 120 years of
the British Humanist Association**

British Humanist Association

Annual Review 2016

*human rights
equalities
outreach
promotion*

*education
public affairs
ceremonies
pastoral support*





Introduction



The BHA has been busy. Since last I wrote to you from the first page of our *Annual Review*, we've brought in a new organisational structure; we've seen whole new areas of work take off very quickly; we've connected more teachers and schools with resources about Humanism than in any previous year in our history; and our campaigns team has found even greater resolve, working in a difficult political climate with great gusto, and even defeating the Government in court.

You'll read about all these aspects of our work since last July, and more, in the pages of this year's *Annual Review*, but before you do, it's worth also reflecting on what has changed outside of the BHA, and how we as a community and a social movement must react to such changes.

It has been a time of intense global suffering. A refugee crisis of unprecedented scale has put Europe under enormous strain, as politicians of goodwill around the world struggle to find an equitable and humane solution. Global terrorism has never been a more pressing threat in our world, with the group known as Islamic State or Daesh successfully striking European cities such as Paris, Brussels, and Istanbul, in attacks which shook our very civilisation to

the core. And on the domestic front, we face a period of political and economic uncertainty greater than at any time since the Second World War. Our politics will remain stuck, for some time, on questions of how Britain should extricate itself from the European Union following the referendum vote to leave on 23 June.

Wherever you stood on the EU referendum or however you may be affected by global events, it's important that we as humanists take a rational, cool-headed approach to such questions ourselves. There will almost definitely be further political and economic upheaval in the months and years ahead, but certainly as humanists we don't face any difficult decisions here: we shall continue as we are, true to our values and adapting to a changing world in order to succeed in our aims.

In challenging times, the values we need most are those of reason and honesty, empathy and compassion, and respect for democracy and the rule of law. As the UK undergoes political and constitutional reorientation, our role will be as it always was: to help foster a fairer, more rational, and more secular society. With your support, this work will continue to gain strength.

Andrew Copson
Chief Executive

The British Humanist Association is the national charity working on behalf of non-religious people who seek to live ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity

Founded in 1896, we work with a network of over 40,000 members and supporters, as well as almost 100 local and special interest groups. These are the individuals who empower our work, who infuse it with energy and drive at every level, and whose commitment and generosity allow us to continue to make a difference.

Our policies are formed with the support of more than 150 of some of the world's most prominent thinkers and experts, including a number of scientists, philosophers, poets, novelists, and numerous academics. We seek to advance these policies with the help of more than 100 parliamentarians who are members of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group (APPHG).

WHAT DO WE WANT?

- A world where everyone lives cooperatively on the basis of shared human values, respect for human rights, and concern for future generations
- To help non-religious people to be confident in living ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We promote Humanism, work on behalf of the non-religious, and support those who wish to live humanist lives, including through the provision of humanist ceremonies
- We campaign for a secular state, challenge religious privilege, and promote equal treatment in law and policy of everyone regardless of religion or belief
- We offer a humanist perspective in public debate, drawing on contemporary humanist thought and the worldwide humanist tradition

OUR VALUES

In all our work, we strive to embody our values by:

- Engaging in debate rationally, intelligently, and with attention to evidence
- Recognising the dignity of individuals and treating them with fairness and respect
- Respecting and promoting freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law
- Being cooperative, working with others of different beliefs for the common good
- Celebrating human achievement, progress, and potential

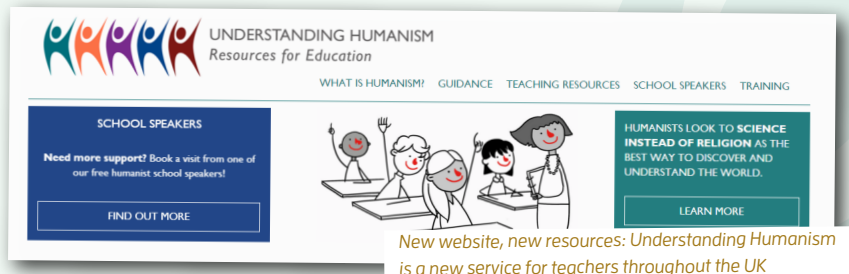
We aim to arrive at a situation where Humanism is understood as an ethical and fulfilling non-religious approach to life involving a naturalistic view of the universe

It's our mission to improve public understanding of Humanism, both in formal education and in wider society. We do this with the help of 200 trained humanist School Speakers and 136 humanist representatives who work as part of their local Standing Advisory Councils for RE.

In April, we launched Understanding Humanism (understandinghumanism.org.uk), a brand new education website to ensure teachers have the free resources and support they need to include Humanism in lessons. We've had nothing but positive feedback from teachers so far, and we plan to keep adding new resources which cover humanist perspectives on ethical questions. Teachers can also use the site to request a visit from one of our 200 trained School Speakers nationwide.

We also saw success with a number of our larger education projects. Our 2015 Happiness Photography Competition to mark the 50th anniversary of the Happy Human symbol attracted nearly 1000 gorgeous photos.

The winners in each age category were unveiled at a special awards ceremony to mark the opening of our week-long exhibition



at the Strand Gallery in London. We were delighted that we were able to provide so many people with an opportunity to engage critically with some of life's existential questions. We also successfully fundraised to send Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young's fantastic book *What is Humanism?* to every primary school in the country, which we aim to do early in 2017.

Another important aspect of our educational efforts is the work we do to build bridges and improve understanding of Humanism among religious communities. This continued throughout the year, led by our volunteer dialogue officer Jeremy Rodell. One highlight came late in 2015 when our outgoing President, Jim Al-Khalili, joined Muslim Institute founder Ziauddin Sardar for a public dialogue at Conway Hall.



Public awareness

4

Social media is becoming an increasingly important part of the work that we do to raise public awareness of Humanism, and along with our ceremonies is one of our main sources of new members.

BHA SOCIAL MEDIA

-  humanism
-  BHAhumanists
-  britishhumanistassociation

NEW PATRONS

Over 150 Patrons of the BHA help us to put the word out about our work, and influence public opinion, through their public support for us. They're an enormous asset to our cause.

New Patrons in the last year include comedian **Sara Pascoe**, retired judge **Sir Stephen Sedley**, broadcaster **Sue Cook**, and actor **Eddie Marsan** (Roy Donovan).

GROWTH, GROWTH, GROWTH

Our presence on Facebook grows every day, and we now stand at a whopping 195,000 'likes', compared to 131,000 last July. Meanwhile, we've grown from 50,000 Twitter followers to a healthy 63,000 (more than the Church of England). Both of our accounts bear the blue 'Verified' badge – signifying a high public profile – and we were delighted when Andrew Copson's account was verified by Twitter this year as well.

A lot of this growth is attributable to the significant public appetite for humanist content that reflects the values and beliefs many people already hold. We have been able to reach out to these people through online graphics, videos, and regular humanist commentary on news and public events, including international tragedies like those in Paris, Brussels, and Orlando.

'SIMPLY HUMANISM'

Back in April, we teamed up with our Patrons (including Dan Snow and Sandi Toksvig, pictured right) to launch a brand new social media campaign called 'Simply Humanism', which aimed to help people recognise how widespread and implicit humanist views are in our everyday life. The campaign was an enormous success, with some of our Patrons' humanist reflections on life and the universe being shared thousands of times.

In addition to Dan and Sandi, the campaign also featured the likes of Tim Minchin, David Baddiel, Polly Toynbee, Alice Roberts, Zoe Margolis, Sara Pascoe, A C Grayling, Christian Jessen, Jim Al-Khalili, Ken Loach, and our new President, comedian Shappi Khorsandi.



Events and lectures

The past year has seen our events programme reach new heights and new audiences, adding further entries in our Annual Lecture Series as well as more ad hoc events throughout the year.

Our annual lecture series is our pride and joy, and one of the main ways in which we reach out to members and new audiences alike about Humanism. In October, author Natalie Haynes took to Manchester to present our 2015 Holyoake Lecture on the subject of Humanism in Greek tragedy, and its pervasive influence on pop culture today. Then, in November, Professor Rae Langton lectured on 'Feminism and Humanism' for our annual Bentham Lecture, which was, as ever, co-hosted with University College London.

For the new year, we kicked off our annual lecture series with not one but two official BHA Darwin Day Lectures in February, in both London and Newcastle, given by biologist Professor Jerry Coyne and evolutionary anthropologist Dr. Thom Scott-Phillips respectively. Due to a stroke, Richard Dawkins could not perform his customary role as chair, but thanks to a team effort from Professor Alice Roberts and Professor Steve Jones in London, and Viscount Matt Ridley in Newcastle, both events went ahead without a hitch. Over 1500 people came to a BHA Darwin Day event in 2016.

Darwin Day was soon followed by a brand new entry in the series named after another hero of Humanism: the pioneering scientist Rosalind Franklin. We were honoured to



Laughter and learning: Bettany Hughes (left) and Shappi Khorsandi (right)

host Professor Dame Anne Glover for the inaugural Rosalind Franklin Lecture in March, on the theme of 'Why evidence really matters'. The new lecture, which celebrates and explores the contributions of women to Humanism, was a rousing success, and we were delighted to be joined by Rosalind Franklin's family for the event itself.

In April, we hosted over 400 people in Conway Hall for our Voltaire Lecture, which takes philosophy and Humanism as its theme each year. Professor Bettany Hughes was joined by our new President, Shappi Khorsandi, for a Socratic dialogue exploring the humanist legacy of Socrates, Confucius, and the Buddha.

Outside this programme of events, we hosted book launches; evening discussions with both Jim Al-Khalili and Ian McEwan; and fascinating skeptic-themed conferences from the Centre for Inquiry UK, including 'The Magic of Maths' and the romantically-tinged 'Love Factually' event, which featured Robin Ince and Francesca Stavrakopoulou.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Our 2016 Annual Conference was our biggest and best so far, and we were delighted to bring the event to Birmingham, the home of the Midlands Enlightenment. After a warm welcome from the deputy to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who wished us a happy 120th anniversary and spoke of the significant contributions humanists have made in our national life, the tone for the weekend was set by A C Grayling's spectacular talk on 'The roots and fruits of Humanism'.

Elsewhere, we heard charged speeches on threats to free speech from Peter Tatchell and David Aaronovitch; explorations of mind, body, and outer space from scientists Monica Grady, Thom Scott-Phillips, and George Zarkadakis; probed the history of ideas with historian David Wootton; and delved deep into human history with help from Francesca Stavrakopoulou and Alice Roberts. Another session brought together our Director of Community Services and the heads of our Ceremonies, Pastoral Support, and Education teams to talk about the work we are doing to support the non-religious and, in doing so, change the social landscape of Britain.

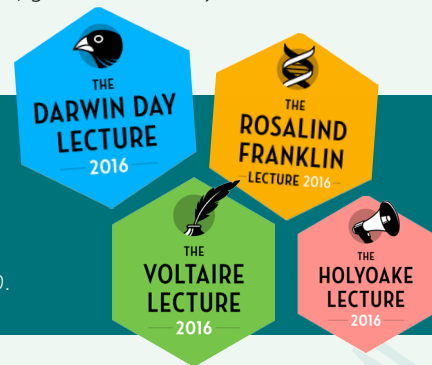
Shappi Khorsandi delighted, both at dinner and in our key note address, with a comedy set infused with poignant reflections on her childhood in Iran and the danger that lies in growing complacent about our humanist cause and the need for a secular state. We left on a high, grateful to everyone who attended, shortly after announcing the venue for next summer's Annual Conference: the beautiful city of Cambridge.



NEW EVENTS BRANDING

At this year's Darwin Day, we unveiled the new unified branding for our annual lecture series, which we hope will help members of the

public to better recognise these events as parts of a programme. We're very grateful to the design agency Gibson (gibson.co) for developing these for us *pro bono*.



We aim to arrive at a situation where people with humanist beliefs and values are supported in identifying themselves as humanists and in expressing those beliefs and values in their lives

MORE LOCAL GROUPS THAN EVER

We've seen strong growth in local group activity this year, boasting 52 BHA Partner Groups and 17 Affiliate Groups in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and even an expatriates group in Spain. Thousands of you were involved with local group activities last year – spanning everything from book clubs, dinners, film nights, and socials through to charitable work and lectures from top-drawer speakers.



YOUNG HUMANISTS HOUSE OF LORDS EVENT

Our 18-35s section, Young Humanists, has grown a lot in the past year: from a handful of activists to a database of several thousand supporters. One major mark of esteem came when we were specially invited to bring our

Photo by Roger Harris. Reproduced with permission from Parliament ©

young representatives along to an event in the House of Lords on ensuring diversity in Parliament. Over 25 young humanists were able to speak at the event, taking a range of positions on how best to ensure diversity. Our representatives also had the honour of both opening and closing the debate.



Defence Humanists Amy Walden and Clive Lewis MP pictured with BHA staff

HUMANISTS IN DEFENCE

Our section for military personnel within the BHA, Defence Humanists, came along in leaps and bounds this year with the establishment of a corresponding section for humanists within the Ministry of Defence (MoD): the Defence Humanist Network. We were treated to a launch event within the MoD, where A C Grayling spoke, and we're hopeful that this will bring us closer to getting recognition for non-religious people who risk their lives for their country, including representation in the National Remembrance Day Ceremony.

BHA SECTIONS CONTINUE TO EXPAND

Other sections within the BHA include the British Humanist Choirs (currently in London and Manchester); the National Federation of Atheist, Humanist, and Secular Student Societies (the AHS), which can now be found on 30 university campuses in the UK and Ireland; and the LGBT Humanists, which runs events for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender humanists.

All these aspects of the BHA are important to our work supporting the wider non-religious community and we're delighted to see such strong growth across them all.

Humanist lives

8

This year saw dramatic progress in our work to provide humanist pastoral care to non-religious people in hospitals and prisons, spurred on by our hire of a full-time Head of Pastoral Support. The popularity of our humanist wedding, naming, and funeral ceremonies is also on the rise, with 2015 proving to be a record year for weddings and namings.

SURGE IN HUMANIST WEDDINGS

Our campaigns for legal humanist marriages in England and Wales may still be under way, but humanist weddings in those areas are more popular than ever, with 2015 showing an 87% rise in ceremonies compared with 2012.

Not only are they more popular than ever, but our weddings are bucking the national trend. While weddings in England and Wales decreased in number by 8.6% in 2013, ours increased by a whopping 26%. Meanwhile, in Scotland, Humanist Society Scotland have eclipsed the Church of Scotland to become the largest provider of weddings in Scotland other than the state. More cause, if any were needed, for the immediate



legalisation of humanist marriages in the rest of the UK.

LEICESTER HOSPITALS APPOINTS UK'S FIRST PAID HUMANIST PASTORAL CARER

Our provision of non-religious pastoral care in hospitals and prisons is relatively new but already we're making great strides towards removing inequalities in care. We were delighted when, at the start of the year, our celebrant and pastoral carer Jane Flint, a trained psychotherapist, was

announced as Leicester Hospitals' (and the UK's) first ever paid pastoral carer, in post to provide a friendly, listening ear to non-religious patients.

Jane Flint, the UK's first paid humanist pastoral carer

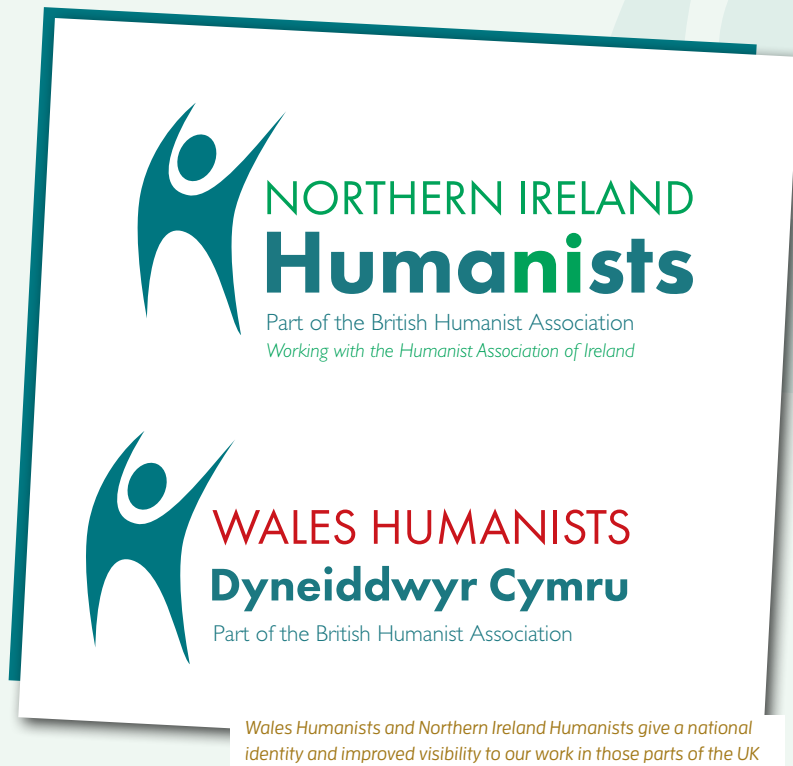


GREATER VISIBILITY IN WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

One major development of the past year has been the unveiling of our national branches, Wales Humanists and Northern Ireland Humanists, each of which is staffed on the ground by a development officer, based in Cardiff and Belfast respectively.

These new brand identities for the BHA in Wales and Northern Ireland are already acting as lightning rods for those interested in our campaigns and services, as well as driving the expansion of our celebrant, pastoral carer, and School Speaker networks. Both Wales Humanists and Northern Ireland Humanists are to be overseen by committees of local humanists based in those countries.

Both national branches have already attracted significant followings on social media (facebook.com/waleshumanists and facebook.com/nihumanists). Wales Humanists has been busy with pending Welsh education reforms, while Northern Ireland Humanists has focused to a large degree on its campaigns to legalise same-sex marriage and abortion.



We aim to arrive at a situation where public debate and policy are shaped by humanist perspectives

This year, we sent legal letters, took to the High Court, lobbied MPs and Lords, collaborated with journalists on exposés, supported whistleblowers, and published hard-hitting new research, all in pursuit of our aim of a fairer, more secular, and more humane society.

HIGH COURT TRIUMPH OVER GOVERNMENT

In November, we supported three humanist families who wanted to challenge the exclusion of Humanism from the new Religious Studies GCSE, and after having had our day in court, we were delighted when the judge ruled unambiguously that the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, had made an error of law in saying that schools could fulfil their statutory requirements to provide Religious Education through a GCSE which excluded non-religious worldviews.

In fact, the judgment went further, and brought into UK law the principle that 'religion' in statute ought to be read as meaning 'religion or belief', and that schools in fulfilling the duties of the state were expected to give parity of esteem to non-religious worldviews.

Shockingly, the Government chose to ignore the court, and used its formidable media influence and access to schools to



Kate Bielby and her daughter Daisy, two of the humanists who took the case

misrepresent the court's findings, painting them as 'narrow' or in some sense a technicality, even insisting to schools that they need not teach Humanism, saying this is a 'Christian country'.

'WE TRUST WOMEN': JOINT CAMPAIGN TO DECRIMINALISE ABORTION

We teamed up with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) to launch a new campaign on women's health issues. As more and more women face prosecution in Northern Ireland over their choice to have an abortion, we joined forces with BPAS and other civil society groups to call for the decriminalisation of abortion across the UK.

We Trust Women

*Supported by
Alliance for Choice
NI, Birthrights, British
Society of Abortion
Care Providers,
Catholics for Choice,
Fawcett Society,
International Planned
Parenthood, NUS
Women's Campaign,
The Royal College
of Midwives (RCM),
Women's Equality
Party and others.*



Public affairs and campaigns

ASSISTED DYING BILLS AND COURT CASE

2015 was an eventful period for the campaign to win a legal right to die for those with incurable conditions. We worked hard to argue for a humane right to die, lobbying MPs and MSPs extensively ahead of debates in both the Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament, and the UK Parliament debate saw strong contributions from humanist MPs Karin Smith, Keir Starmer, Jim Fitzpatrick, Andy Slaughter, and Crispin Blunt.

After these bills were defeated, we returned to work on a potential court case. We had been working with our member, Simon Binner, on a case to win recognition for the right to die across the UK. Simon's decision to go ahead and end his life last year made international news, and a documentary following his last days, *Simon's Choice: How to Die*, was broadcast on BBC Two in the spring.



Simon Binner, pictured with his wife, Debbie

EXPOSED: UNLAWFUL CHAREDI SCHOOLS REGISTERED AS CHARITIES

Our work to shed light on illegal Charedi schools in Hackney in London continued, as even amid Government promises to close the illegal schools, they continued operating. One major piece of exposure came when the BBC's *Newsnight* ran our exposé, which found that many of these unsafe schools were registered with the Charity Commission despite not being registered as schools. Children at these schools receive no secular education, and most of them grow up unable to read English or comprehend basic mathematics.

UNLAWFUL SCHOOL DONATIONS

We broke the story that at least 100 schools, mostly 'faith' schools, were unlawfully pressuring parents for donations. In one example, Grey Coat Hospital School asked parents for money while offering school places. Another explicitly underlined its demands for cash with the words 'This is not optional.' One school, threateningly, remarked 'Have you paid or are you deliberately choosing not to pay? Your action have [sic] a direct impact on the children.' In addition to widespread newspaper coverage, Andrew Copson discussed the story on the BBC's *Breakfast* programme.

BHA REVEALS 'AN UNHOLY MESS': WIDESPREAD FAITH SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS CODE BREACHES

In October, in collaboration with the Fair Admissions Campaign, we published a landmark, statistically robust report which suggested that as many as 95% of 'faith' schools were knowingly or complacently breaking the statutory School Admissions Code with respect to their admissions policies.

The report was based on months of scrupulous complaints to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, which in almost every case ruled in our favour and found the various 'faith'

schools in question to have clearly broken the law. Many were found to be discriminating on lines of ethnicity or race, social class, gender, academic grades, or even discriminating against children who had previously been in care.

We concluded that the Government needed to act at once to give stronger enforcement powers to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, and to accept

that educational failures such as these were an inevitable consequence of a balkanised education system composed of innumerable sectarian 'faith' schools.

In the face of overwhelming evidence, the Government chose to respond by nakedly lying, in saying our complaints were



Education Secretary
Nicky Morgan MP

'vexatious'; to not reprimand a single school found to be discriminating against children unlawfully; and then, on top of it all, to propose banning civil society organisations of all kinds from making complaints against law-breaking schools the first place. We decried this as an affront to democracy and an assault on parents' rights, and worked hard with the All Party Parliamentary Group to try and steer Government towards backtracking. With a

Conservative Party reshuffle on the way, we're not sure what will become of this dangerous proposal.

FAITH SCHOOLERS ANONYMOUS

One of this year's major successes has been the launch of Faith Schoolers Anonymous (faithschoolersanonymous.uk), our new platform for whistleblowers at 'faith' schools whose testimonies are all too often suppressed, ignored, or dismissed by those in positions of authority. The new website takes care to fact-check where necessary and protect identities in the blogs it publishes. The site has already received extensive coverage from the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, *Schools Week*, and politics.co.uk, as well as international outlets.



We aim to arrive at a situation where the UK is a secular state guaranteeing human rights, with no privilege or discrimination on grounds of religion or belief

UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD TELLS UK GOVERNMENT WE'RE RIGHT

We made real headway with our work to reform the UK's healthcare and education systems when the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child wholeheartedly adopted our recommendations on ending compulsory collective worship in British schools, along with ending the ban on abortion in Northern Ireland, in a published report which rebuked the UK Government.

Any major adoption of our policies is welcome, but the UN's weight of opinion is particularly significant. Their stance will make it harder for future UK governments and devolved administrations to simply ignore the evidence which says that collective worship infringes children's human rights.

CRACKDOWN ON SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS

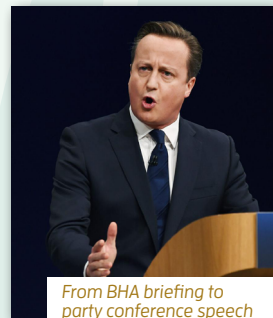
In 2015, our education campaigner met with officials in the Department for Education to raise, among other issues, the under-examined issue of supplementary schools such as



madrasas, yeshivas, and Sunday Schools operating in the absence of regulation. Many of these schools are not just unregistered, but fundamentally unaccountable to Government, even if they are promoting an extremist or isolationist ideology, or otherwise indoctrinating children.

Department officials appeared to take our concerns very seriously, and passed our notes up the chain, apparently via the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, and on to the Prime Minister, David Cameron. Cameron then surprised us when, in his key note address at the Conservative Party's own conference in October, he announced the Government would crack down on supplementary schools and alternative educational settings, to prevent the abuse of children.

In his speech, the Prime Minister criticised the narrowness, divisiveness, and insularity of many of these schools' teachings, and called for children to mix together more and broaden their horizons. We praised the Government for making this decision, but pointed out that support for inclusive education should also entail opposition to 'faith' schools more generally.



From BHA briefing to party conference speech



National Offender
Management Service

EQUALITY OF CARE IN THE PRISON SERVICE

A major achievement in 2016 came when the National Offender

Management Service (NOMS), which oversees the prison service across the UK, decided to recognise our network of humanist pastoral carers, the Non-Religious Pastoral Support Network, as an official body catering to the needs of the non-religious population in prisons, including those who do not identify as humanists.

The agreement with NOMS was notified to all in the prison service through the service's official bulletin this July. This will, we hope, make it easier for our volunteers to work alongside chaplains in prison care teams, and will hopefully help to raise awareness of this provision among non-religious inmates.

UNLAWFUL NHS ENGLAND JOB ADVERTS

Late in 2015, we sent pre-action letters to Guy's and St Thomas' Trust in relation to potentially unlawful recruitment practices at its hospitals, which placed an unnecessary religious requirement on a generic pastoral care role in the hospital which could have been filled by a non-religious person. We followed this up with a similar pre-action letters to a number of large NHS trusts, for the same reason. All job adverts were pulled. The issue was then raised at the Chaplaincy Leadership Forum, where, with the support of the NHS, we secured an agreement from chaplaincy leaders that these roles must be advertised in line with equalities

legislation. We'll be helping them devise their full policy, and we're prepared to litigate against religious discrimination to prove a point, if this becomes necessary. The law is very clearly on our side.



The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

BHA DEFENDS UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

We made interventions at numerous sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, with the 32nd such session in June this year being our busiest to date.

Topics covered included the plight of non-religious people in countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan; the global scourge of blasphemy laws; restrictions on abortion in Ireland and Northern Ireland; and the plight of Syrian refugees. We also issued a joint statement with the Arab Humanists, a new group, condemning persecution of atheists in the Arab world.

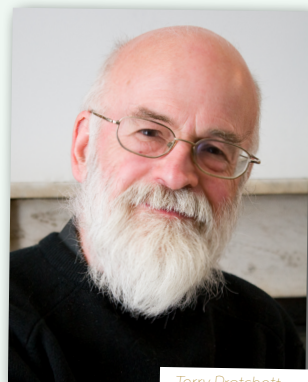
We aim to arrive at a situation where we are respected as an organisation for our expertise and professionalism and recognised as the national voice of Humanism and a leading national voice for the non-religious and for secularism

HIGH-PROFILE FUNERALS

2015 and 2016 saw a significant number of beloved public figures die, and many among them were prominent humanists who had some involvement with our work.

Among the many funerals we were honoured to take were those of our patrons Terry Pratchett, David Nobbs, and Warren Mitchell, as well as humanist send-offs for the popular party hostess

Cynthia Payne and the comedian Victoria Wood. These ranged from exuberant celebrations of life to smaller, more intimate occasions for family and friends.



Terry Pratchett



Victoria Wood

HIGH-LEVEL EU MEETINGS

We were honoured when in June we were invited to Brussels for talks with Frans Timmermans, the First Vice-President of the European Commission, to discuss Humanism and our agenda for a more secular, pluralistic, and democratic Europe. Unfortunately, the UK's decision to leave the European Union later that month will in future impede our ability to engage in dialogues of this kind with European leaders.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

It was a year of increased interest in our community services work from international humanist associations, with requests for us to train humanist celebrants in Malta; to train pastoral care volunteers in Ireland; and for the Swedish Humanists to translate and adapt resources from our brand new Understanding Humanism website.



Malta's first humanist celebrants

We aim to arrive at a situation where we are an expanding, financially healthy and sustainable organisation with high standards of governance and management

NEW STAFF

Since last year, several new faces have joined the BHA staff team, including several in new posts. Notable additions are our Director of Community Services, Teddy Prout, overseeing our growing range of community activities, along with our first full-time Head of Pastoral Support, Simon O'Donoghue.



New: Teddy Prout

Our front office team has also grown in number, by one, in order to accommodate an increased amount of administrative work coming from the Community Services team, and in particular from our ceremonies, pastoral care, and School Speaker training.

PWC HUMANISTS

Our membership is growing and our range of community sections has diversified, which helps us to reach new audiences and ensure that we are a sustainable organisation. Equally important are those groups outside

of the BHA which we can support to fly the flag of Humanism and to represent our work within their institutions. For example, each of the three traditional UK political parties has a humanist group.

The first of these outside of politics, that we know of, launched late last year: the PricewaterhouseCoopers Humanists! It's commonplace for major professional services firms to have groupings like this one which put on events and networking socials, and we see its success as something to be replicated throughout the City of London and in businesses throughout the country.

LEGACY INCOME

In the last few years, gifts left to us in the wills of some of our members have helped us grow our staff team and expand our range of activities in ways which will help us continue to thrive and effect social change for years to come. This kind of donation can really transform an organisation for the better.

If you're intending to leave us a legacy when you die, please let us know by email, telephone, or post. Our contact details are on the back cover of this *Annual Review*.

Statement of Financial Activities

including the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Funds 2015			Funds 2014
	£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from general funds				
Legacies and donations	185,323	797,397	982,720	1,250,343
Other trading activities	-	7,650	7,650	6,176
Investments	-	16,923	16,923	5,213
Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	696,051	696,051	617,318
Total incoming resources	185,323	1,518,021	1,703,344	1,879,050
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating income	-	(81,131)	(81,131)	(75,914)
Costs of charitable activities	(151,310)	(1,153,866)	(1,305,176)	(1,394,538)
Total resources expended	(151,310)	(1,234,997)	(1,386,307)	(1,470,452)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(RESOURCES EXPENDED) BEFORE TRANSFERS AND INVESTMENTS	34,013	283,024	317,037	408,598

	Funds 2015			Funds 2014
	£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES <i>(continued)</i>				
Net incoming resources/(resources expended) before transfers and investments	34,013	283,024	317,037	408,598
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	(31,468)	(31,468)	5,292
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	34,013	251,556	285,569	413,890
Transfers between funds	(6,545)	6,545	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	27,468	258,101	285,569	413,890
Balanced brought forward at 1 January	89,086	860,720	949,806	535,916
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER	116,554	1,118,821	1,235,375	949,806

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Chief Executive Andrew Copson
 Director of Public Affairs and Policy Pavan Dhaliwal
 Director of Communications and Development Sarah Gillam
 Director of Community Services Teddy Prout
 Director of Operations Catriona McLellan

BANK

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AUDITORS

Messrs Knox Cropper
 Chartered Accountants
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