

30 May 2018

Humanists UK
39, Moreland Street
London EC1V 8BB
020 7079 3060
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of Humanists UK

Dear Member,

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24 June 2018 | 14:00-16:00
Northumbria Students Union, 2 Sandyford Road,
Newcastle NE1 8SB

These papers contain the agenda for this year's AGM, the formal notice of the AGM, and the minutes of last year's AGM. Please bring them with you to the AGM. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws will be available on arrival but can also be downloaded at www.humanism.org.uk/members.

Registration for the formal AGM will begin at 13:00

The AGM will begin at 14:00

You are invited to join Trustees and staff for a glass of wine or soft drink from 16:00 - 17:00

2017 Report and Accounts

The 2017 Report and Accounts are available online at www.humanism.org.uk/members. A copy is also available for inspection at the Humanists UK office and copies will be available at the AGM. You can request a paper copy in advance of the AGM by emailing, telephoning, or writing to us.

In order to ensure that members who have questions concerning the accounts can have them answered without taking up too much time at the AGM, the Board will take written questions on the accounts in advance of the AGM and provide written answers to members attending the meeting. If you have any questions on the accounts, please submit them by email (agm@humanism.org.uk) or post by **17.00 on 15 June 2018**.

Resolutions and Motions

As part of the formal business of the AGM, the members will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions which are set out in the notice of the AGM. The resolutions are: to receive the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine their remuneration.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to Humanists UK that have arisen after the closing date for ordinary resolutions of **1 May 2018**) must be submitted to me or to the Chair before the start of the AGM. Emergency Motions may be proposed by Partner groups of Humanists UK or individual members and must also be seconded. It should be noted that any motions passed are in law not resolutions of Humanists UK but only express the opinion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the AGM. **Apologies for absence** can be made by email (agm@humanism.org.uk), post or telephone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Copson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew Copson
Company Secretary, Humanists UK

Humanists UK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 24 June 2018 14.00 (registration from 13.00)
Northumbria Students Union, Newcastle

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
which are given in the Byelaws
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of one Timekeeper and two Tellers
5. Minutes of the 2017 AGM which are attached to this agenda
6. Matters arising from those minutes which are not covered separately on this agenda
7. Chair's address
8. Elections to the Board of Trustees by show of hands (candidate statements are attached to this agenda)
9. Formal part of the Business of the AGM as set out in the attached Notice.
10. Emergency Motions
which must relate directly to core areas of our operation or existence, and be related to issues which have newly arisen since 1 May 2018, and must be presented to the Chair or Company Secretary before the start of the meeting
11. Any other business
which must be notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the AGM

Company Secretary
12 May 2018

Candidates Statements

Blaise Egan

Gender: Male

Age: 63

Ethnicity: British

Region: London

Why should people vote for you?

Experienced and reliable. Passionate about humanism. Team player with good analytical skills. Strategic thinker. Good communication skills.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

- I have been a trustee before and I know my role and responsibilities as a trustee, the people involved and the organisation. I am conscientious and have an excellent attendance record.
- I work well with other people and am a team player and I fully agree with all discussions.
- I have a background as a chartered statistician, so analytical thinking is one of my strengths. Occasionally, my statistical expertise is useful.
- I don't belong to any organisation that would bring a policy agenda to the role - my thoughts are my own.
- I have good communication skills, both orally and in writing.
- My 'day job' involves strategic thinking, initiating and managing change, so I am experienced in all of these.
- A lateral and 'out of the tesseract' thinker.
- Passionate about Humanism.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

I am very happy with the existing aims and policies and I would not want to change those to any significant degree.

We are living in strange and turbulent times. I am reminded of the words of Dickens:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of time. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness., it was the epoch of belief, it was the incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness. It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

For me Humanists UK is the Light. There is a great struggle for the kind of society we want to live in and I want to be slap-dab right in the middle of it, making a difference, helping to tackle ignorance, prejudice and xenophobia, dismantling illegitimate power and encouraging rationality, practical kindness and human flourishing

Ann O'Connell

Gender: Female

Age: 49

Ethnicity: Irish

Region: East Midlands

Why should people vote for you?

As a committed humanist I will passionately devote my time and skills to helping Humanists UK thrive and succeed.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

I have an academic and practical background in audit, finance, treasury, risk and governance with over twenty years work experience. I have both accountancy and treasury professional qualifications with a particular interest in governance.

Governance to me means maintaining integrity in the exercise of power. I have learned that good governance can be achieved from following the collective wisdom embedded in regulatory guidelines, but best practice governance also involves the ability to think originally about the circumstances of individual organisations.

I have served as a member of a senior banking committee for seven years. I was also responsible for the secretariat function which maintained the governance standards of the committee. I have served on the boards of a credit union and a building society. These experiences have allowed me to develop the valuable skills of effective listening, influencing and critical thinking together with a willingness to question, constructively challenge and be challenged.

I have had the good fortune to learn from very well run committees and boards. I have also experienced the successful resolution of some of the most difficult governance issues on boards.

I hope that my skills and experience would be useful to the Board of Humanists UK.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

My vision for Humanists UK is that the organisation thrives and succeeds in its aim to represent people who seek to live good lives without religious or superstitious beliefs.

I am very supportive of the campaigns. I have a particular interest in achieving a secular state and bringing an end to religious privilege in schools and political life.

I share the Humanist UK vision to find personal fulfilment from connections with others, and to find meaning from science, reason, compassion and creativity. I value altruism, integrity, honesty and responsibility.

My vision is to see Humanist thinking and wisdom reaching a wider audience. For example in the recent ebook 'Living Well' written by Richard Docwra, the section on death was a moving example of original Humanist thought;

"rather than see death as the exception and life as the rule.....see life as the exception, a brief but amazing flash of light, a window within the darkness of non-existence that we should make every moment of whilst we have the profound luck to appreciate it."

Jeremy Rodell

Gender: Male

Age: 65

Ethnicity: British

Region: London

Why should people vote for you?

I'd like to continue bringing my skills and deep experience of UK Humanism to our strong, diverse Board.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

Humanism is a big part of my life: as well as being a Trustee, I'm Humanists UK's Dialogue Officer, Chair of a successful local group, and a school speaker. I've led a major campaign against discriminatory admissions at a new state-funded Catholic school, and helped establish the Fair Admissions Campaign. Being able to draw on a business management background has been invaluable in these activities.

In my Dialogue role I work with humanists and others to advance our vision of a cooperative, secular society, and to promote understanding of Humanism (speaking at the British Islam Conference for example). I have engaged with humanist groups in almost all English and Welsh regions, and plan work with Humanist Students at several universities.

As an experienced Trustee, both on Humanists UK's board and on others, I've seen how well our existing board works: a diverse team of women and men, each making a unique contribution. As well as knowledge and experience of the governance role, I'm capable of taking both a strategic overview, and of getting stuck into the detail when necessary. I'm also willing to put in the effort: during my period as a Board member, I have prepared for/attended, every meeting.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

Given current evidence, in 20 years there will still be a significant minority of Brits with a range of faith identities, and diversity within them, but a clear majority with no religious identity, including around half with a broadly humanist worldview. Against that backdrop:

- Most of those with a humanist worldview will recognise 'humanist' as a description for it, even if they don't use the label personally, and recognise Humanists UK as the national organisation representing that view. We'll be bigger, and more diverse.
- Some of the need for campaigning may have diminished as Secularism is accepted as the best way to run things in this environment, and existing campaigns succeed. But it will not go away, and we will continue to be ready for new campaigning challenges.
- Humanists UK will be recognised as an important player in helping this plural, secular society work successfully. We will continue to set the standards for non-religious ceremonies, pastoral support, and education about Humanism. But we will also be key promoters of humanist values – kindness, curiosity, empathy, critical thinking and rationality – helping humanists enrich their own lives, and applying these values in constructive engagement with others who share them, and those who disagree.

Amy Walden

Gender: Female

Age: 36

Ethnicity: British

Region: South East

Why should people vote for you?

I am a dedicated and enthusiastic trustee who is keen for us to fulfil our great potential.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

I have worked within the criminal justice system for the past 14 years in courts, prisons and probation offices. This involves working alongside other agencies with differing perspectives and brings me into contact with people from all walks of life. This work has honed my skills in analysis, diplomacy and communication and I can offer an insight into a world that many do not see. My expertise in safeguarding has been particularly useful during board discussions. I have been told by other trustees that I often think about things in a different way, bringing a fresh perspective during our decision-making processes.

In 2011 whilst working at HMP Winchester I identified the need for non-religious pastoral support for non-religious prisoners and staff. Despite much opposition I initiated this provision and since that time have continued to be heavily involved in expanding our work in pastoral care. I train new pastoral support volunteers for both prisons and hospitals, have spoken in the House of Commons on the subject, and am currently the vice-chair of the Non-Religious Pastoral Support Network. This experience has enabled me to provide the board with knowledge of this area and has developed my ability to think strategically.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

I believe Humanists UK has a key role to play within our society. We need to be involved in protecting the rights we currently have whilst legislation is reviewed in the wake of Brexit. We should also use this as an opportunity to further improve the rights of the non-religious and improve equality for all. It is vital that we continue to work with humanist organisations in other countries to support efforts where the non-religious are at a disadvantage or in danger. I believe Humanists UK can make a real difference to the lives of many through our community services work as well as our robust campaigning.

Whenever I meet other Humanist UK members I am struck by the strength and warmth they bring and believe this is what gives our organisation such potential to make the most of new opportunities. I am passionate about our organisation and would relish the opportunity to continue to support it as a trustee.

List of remaining Board members and their gender, age, ethnicity, and region

John Adams

Gender: Male | Age: 72 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jenny Bartle

Gender: Female | Age: 27 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: South West

Tom Copley

Gender: Male | Age: 32 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: London

Tamar Ghosh

Gender: Female | Age: 43 | Ethnicity: Mixed (White and Asian) | Region: London

Ewan Main

Gender: Male | Age: 39 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: Yorkshire and the Humber

Naomi Phillips

Gender: Female | Age: 36 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: London

David Pollock

Gender: Male | Age: 76 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: London

Alom Shaha

Gender: Male | Age: 44 | Ethnicity: Asian/Asian British (Bangladeshi) | Region: London

Imtiaz Shams

Gender: Male | Age: 29 | Ethnicity: Asian/Asian British (Bangladeshi) | Region: London

Alexander Williams

Gender: Male | Age: 34 | Ethnicity: Ethnicity: Black / African / Caribbean / Black British (Caribbean) |
Region: Eastern

Minutes of the previous AGM

British Humanist Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held 8 July 2017, 14.30–16.00, Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2

Present: Deborah Ainger, Mussa Ali, Shaima Ammal, Keith Anderson, Jenny Bartle, Mal Bride, John Catt, John Clayton, Iain Cockburn, Aaron Darkwood, Stells Desso, Jacqui Dickenson, John Dowdle, Cedric Duncan, Jamie Elmer, Solomon Ezra, Robert Garnett, Tamar Ghosh, Nicholas Groth Merrild, John Hanger, Steven Haynes, Jenny Headlam-Wells, Roy Heaps, Alan Henness, Nigel Hilton, Brian Hodgson, Nicholas Hollinghurst, Deborah Hooper, Rachel Jones, Paul Kaufman, Toby Keynes, Jessica Layfield, Caroline Lees, Robert Lindley, Paul Lopez, Erica Lopez, Stef Lorenz, Ewan Main, Derek Marcus, Richard Mascal, Thomas McDowall, Tag McEntegart, John Miles, June Mitchell, Peter Morgan, David Morris, Tam Neal, Len Newton, Lauren Nicholas, Blakeley Nixon, Rory O'Kelly, Gordon Ogilvie, Guy Otten, Alan Palmer, Barry Phelps, Naomi Phillips, David Pollock, William Quinn, Susan Quinn, Ken Richman, Michael Rickwood, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Anthony Ryan, Alom Shaha, Imtiaz Shams, Brian Simpson, Chris Smith, Richard Stein, Ian Symons, Ariadne Tampion, Carrie Thomas, David Thomas, David Tooley, Moira Turner, Mike Turner, Lucy Wainwright, Amy Walden, Phil Walder, Ray Ward, Deborah Waters, Julian Webb, John White, Ray White, Liam Whitton, Alexander Williams, Peter Wills, Anthony Keith Wilson, Jane Wynne Willson.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson (Company Secretary), Luke Donnellan, Jay Harman, Wendy Kurman, Catriona McLellan, Simon O'Donoghue, Iyabo Ojo, Tony Pinkney, Teddy Prout, Kathy Riddick, Edward Robinson, Isabel Russo, Suraiyya Samiya, Ian Scott, Boyd Sleator, Rachel Taggart-Ryan, Fred Tomalin, Richy Thompson, Andrew West, Liam Whitton.

Apologies for Absence: John Allen, Lindsay Allen, Jane d'Ardenne, Michelle Beckett, David Bruck, Baroness (Lorely) Burt, Sally Burton, Simon Bull, Neil Camp, Lord (Martin) O'Neil of Clackmannan, Hilary Collins, Les Collins, Kathy Condon, Graham Cooper, Julia Copson, Emma Dogliani, Lord (Alf) Dubs, Anna Gray, John Gregory, Marion Gregory, Ray Hall, Daphne Hardy, Joan Harpin, Baroness (Dianne) Hayter, Ramon Henson, Charley Jarrett, Graham Kingsley, John Leeson, Adrienne LeMan, Elaine Lever, Clive Lewis MP, Sheridan Lynch, Fokina McDonnell, Mary McKeown, Pat McKeown, Diana Naumann, Iain Paterson, Maggie Platts, John Ricketts, John Robertson, John Sharp, Christine Simons, Janice Taverne, Lord (Dick) Taverne, Mark Wardrop, Michael Watson, Mary Walker, David Wright, Karol Zuchowski.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Tamar Ghosh (Chair of the Board of Trustees and the AGM) the Standing Orders were adopted by the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: The Chair reminded those present that members speaking should declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to any item.

Tellers: The meeting appointed the Company Secretary as Timekeeper and Jessica Layfield and Guy Otten as tellers.

Minutes of the AGM of 9 July 2016: On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con*.

Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising.

Chair's address: Tamar Ghosh reported on the past year's activities highlighting Humanists UK's many successes and hard work ahead. She paid special recognition to Vice Chair Patricia Rogers' immense contribution and announced that she would now be standing down as Vice Chair. Tamar also thanked Andrew Copson, John Adams (Treasurer), and David Pollock (Trustee) for helping her to learn her new role in the past year as well as the staff at Humanists UK for their enormous achievements. Special thanks was given to Director of Operations Catriona McLellan.

Tamar noted that the Board are investing in strategic initiatives by using some of the reserves to extend the reach of Humanists UK. Tamar highlighted as one strategic milestone on the evolving image that would give us the flexibility to reach out to new audiences and to invest in new activities.

A number of questions were asked by members.

Election to the Board of Trustees: The Company Secretary announced the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees. The following candidates were elected (in order of election):

Williams, Alexander
Beckett, Michelle
Bartle, Jenny
Phillips, Naomi

Thanks were expressed by all those present to all candidates who stood, whether successful or not and special thanks to Jeremy Rodell for his considerable service and immense contribution on the Board in previous years. Thanks were expressed by the Chair and all those present to Trisha Rogers who left the Board this year.

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016: John Adams (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. The Treasurer noted that 2016 was a very successful year in financial terms that allowed the organisation to take on three additional full-time staff. The Treasurer reported a decrease in legacies but explained that legacies cannot be planned for and are therefore treated as windfall. Membership subscription income is on the rise and ceremonies income has also increased. There is large increase in expenditure in Pastoral Support and Education and Promotion. The report and accounts for 2016 were accepted *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: Knox Cropper were reappointed as auditor *nem con*. A review of the auditors will take place in 2018.

Remuneration of Auditor: The Board was authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Special Resolutions: In order to bring in specialist knowledge more easily in the future as Humanists UK grows and its operations diversify, and in order to make the Board more representative geographically and ethnically, the meeting adopted the following resolution:

To amend 22.3 of the Articles of Association as follows (additions in bold, removals in square brackets):

*The number of trustees shall be not less than four and not more than [fifteen] **seventeen**, of whom up to twelve shall be elected by members of the Charity.*

To amend 27.1 of the Articles of Association as follows (additions in bold, removals in square brackets):

*The trustees may appoint up to [three] **five** members to be trustees in order to provide expertise to the Charity or to make the Board more representative of the membership.*

Any other Business: There was none.

Humanists UK
Company Number: 228781

Notice of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held at Northumbria Students Union, Newcastle on 24 June 2018 at 14:00 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

As Ordinary Resolutions:

1. To receive the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to Humanists UK to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Date: 12 May 2018

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:

39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB



COMPANY SECRETARY

Notes:

1. A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, speak and vote in his or her place on a show of hands or on a poll provided. Such proxy need not be a member of Humanists UK.
2. To be valid, the completed and signed form of proxy must be returned to the Humanists UK's registered office no later than 14.30 on 22 June 2018. Lodging a form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting at the meeting.
3. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of Humanists UK at 17.00 on 23 June 2018 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.

Humanists UK Form of Proxy

I, _____ of _____ being a member
of the Humanists UK hereby appoint the Chair of the meeting or
_____ of _____ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as
indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 24 June 2017 and at any adjournment
thereof.

Resolution	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2017				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor's remuneration				

Please indicate with an 'X' in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2018

.....
Signature

Explanatory Notes:

1. Every member has the right to appoint some other person of his or her choice, who need not be a member, as his or her proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights, to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf at the meeting. To appoint a person other than the Chair please insert the name and address of your chosen proxy in the space provided.
2. To be valid this form of proxy must be signed by the member or his or her attorney and be sent to Humanists UK's registered office (39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB) no later than 14.30 on 22 June 2018. Any Power of Attorney or any other authority under which the proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.
3. The 'Vote Withheld' box is provided to enable you to abstain on the resolution. However, it should be noted that a vote withheld is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes 'for' and 'against' a resolution.
4. If you do not indicate as to how your proxy should vote or you tick the discretion box, your proxy will have discretion to vote on the resolution as they see fit. Your proxy will also have the discretion to vote as they see fit on any other business which may properly come before the meeting, including amendments to the resolution, and at any adjournment of the meeting.
5. The completion and return of this form will not preclude a member from attending the meeting and voting in person.
6. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members at 17.00 on 23 June 2018 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.