

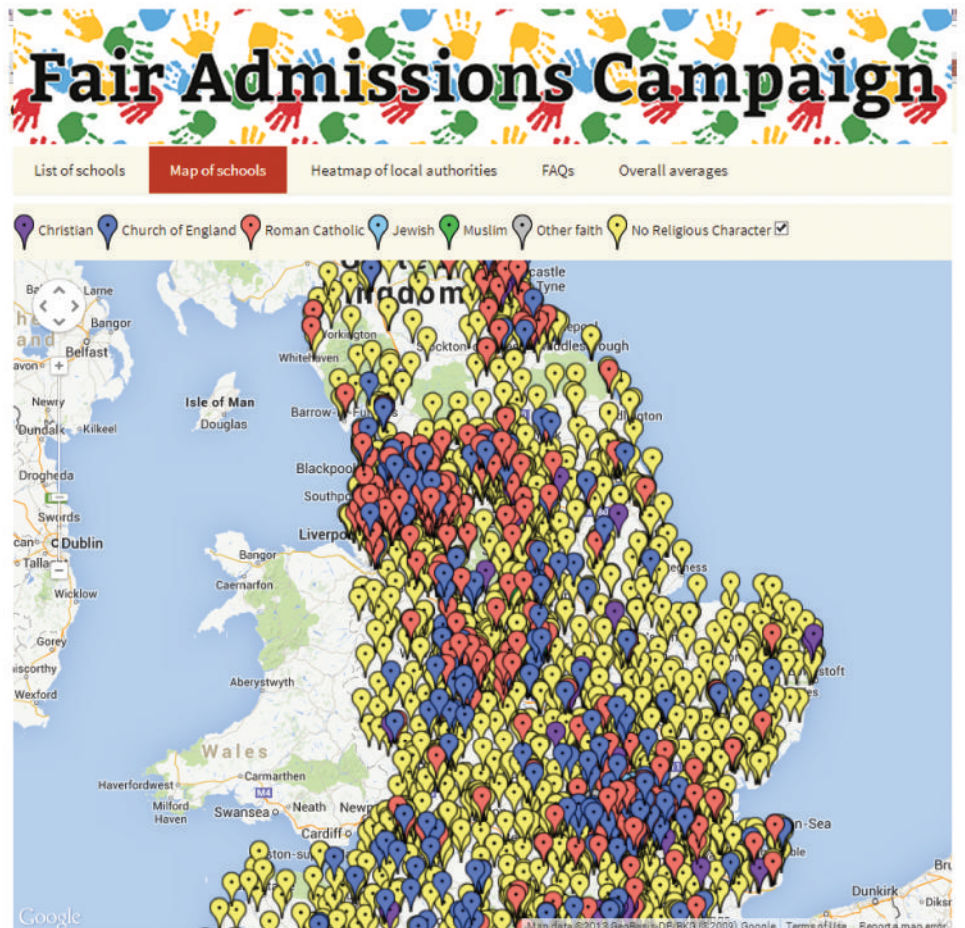
'Reason respects the differences, and imagination the similitudes of things. Reason is to the imagination as the instrument to the agent, as the body to the spirit, as the shadow to the substance.' *Percy Shelley*

Groundbreaking Fair Admissions Campaign research maps the segregating impact of 'faith' school admissions

Last week, the Fair Admissions Campaign, in which we take a leading role, launched its map showing how religiously selective each state-funded English secondary school is, and also how representative each is of its area in terms of the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals (the standard measure of socio-economic inclusion) and of those speaking English as an additional language. You can look up schools in your own locality at www.fairadmissions.org.uk/map.

In September, we published details of how faith-based admissions cause socio-economic and ethnic segregation (see the report on page 5), but the launch of the map saw the first data published on the extent to which different 'faith' schools religiously select in their admissions criteria. A staggering 99.8% of places at Catholic secondaries are religiously selected. At Church of England secondaries, a slight majority of places are not religiously selected, but this inclusivity is often where the schools have not been in charge of their own admissions. Where they have been, only one third of places are inclusive.

The map is the culmination of months of hard work and research which involved looking at every religious secondary school's admissions policy and compiling data from six different sources in order to accurately model what each schools' intake should look like to reflect



their neighbourhood.

The result is a ground-breaking piece of work that reveals the extent of the problem of their socio-economic, ethnic

and religious segregation, providing an invaluable tool for journalists, researchers, and, most of all, parents.

Scouts to introduce new Promise for the non-religious

Another longstanding campaigning objective of ours was achieved in October when the Scout Association announced that they will follow the Girl Guides in admitting atheist and agnostic young people and adult volunteers for the first time. Instead of having to promise to 'do my duty to God', Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Cub Scouts will instead be able to promise to 'uphold our Scout values' – values which are themselves secular. Beavers will promise to 'love our world' instead of to 'love God'.

We have long campaigned for an

end to the requirement for members to make a religious Promise – the number of complaints from the public about this having been second only to those about Collective Worship in schools. After the Scout Association decided last year to consult on this matter, they chose to work closely with us to see the change through to fruition – consulting us on the wording of the new Promise and keeping us updated as they sought approval from the global movement to become the first Scouting organisation to make such a change since the 1930s. We had to keep

this work confidential until the final announcement was made, and are now delighted to share the results.

The changes will take effect from 1 January 2014.





From the Chief Executive Andrew Copson

Freedom of thought and freedom of expression – the two human rights we are focusing on at the World Humanist Congress 2014 – are two rights that have always been of high importance to humanists. They are also two of the human rights that are most under threat in the world today. Non-religious people in particular have been the target of state or social persecution, whether it is atheist bloggers in Bangladesh arrested and intimidated, humanist Facebook users in Egypt imprisoned for blasphemy, or secularist performers in eastern Europe tried on trumped-up charges for standing up to church encroachment into political life. At the Congress, we will be lucky enough to have with us some of the brave defenders of free thought and free expression from all around the world. It will truly be a privilege to host them.

Human rights have been called ‘values for a godless age’, and humanists like John Boyd Orr, Brock Chisholm, and Julian Huxley were prominent in putting the sentiments of the UN Declaration of Human Rights into practice. But many religious commentators still question whether a morality that does not hold to a source of authority over and above humanity can ever convincingly underwrite such sentiments of individual human worth. In fact, the enshrining of human rights in international laws is the greatest political achievement of non-

religious, pragmatic morality in our age.

A humanist foundation of universal human rights and human dignity is easily identified. We start by frankly admitting that there is no such thing as a ‘natural’ right. All rights that have ever been enshrined in law are human creations sustained by the will of humanity generally and specifically by the political and judicial systems that we have established. The development of modern human rights is almost a microcosm of how humanists see morality as originating. Just as the need to live together in communities made humanity inclined to the sort of behaviour that facilitates communal life, so too did the development of human rights as a set of entitlements for all flow from the mid-twentieth century need to prevent the recurrence of the terrible suffering and misery that we inflicted on each other in the opening decades of that century.

In today’s world the extension of rights to all of humanity makes sense in terms of self-interest. Even in the Universal Declaration, though we make claims for the inherent dignity of the human being, we are also upfront about the pragmatic motivations for these claims. There is a heavy dose of pragmatism at the root of the Declaration, side by side with all its elevated language of dignity, worth and inherent equality. Most humanists would

not think that these two features are incompatible. Why should recognition of the pragmatic foundation of the rights somehow diminish them or render them inert? The humanists Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill did not believe that rights were ‘natural’ yet they both had a deep hatred of slavery and arbitrary coercion.

Is it not in fact a source of great wonder that humanity, scattered and divided in nations, ideologies and tribes around the world, came together to agree these principles, and in the wake of violent wars and genocides, recognised that peace was a great end and that, to reach it, a global culture of reciprocity and respect was essential? Many humanists would say it was, and that we do not necessarily need to explicate the foundations of these rights beyond an understanding of the historical and present-day contexts that make them essential. We could commit to upholding them simply on that basis.

We have now sold over 25% of the tickets to the World Humanist Congress and the programme is looking better than ever. Don’t forget to book your place at www.whc2014.org.uk and be part of that ongoing humanist commitment to universal values, rights and freedoms and the ongoing conversation on how we build a better world.

Holyoake lecture

President of the British Humanist Association and theoretical physicist Jim Al-Khalili delivered the annual Holyoake lecture at the Central Manchester Friends Meeting House to a packed auditorium of over 200 people.

He opened the lecture by explaining that its title – *The Forgotten Legacy of Arabic Science* – was a reference to the language, rather than the ethnicity, of the practitioners whose life and work he was to elucidate. The translation of the great works of Ancient Greek science into Arabic drove much of the world’s scientific progress during what is eurocentrically known as ‘The Dark Ages’, he continued, and the translation of these scientists’ work into Latin was a key aspect of the beginning of the European Renaissance’s scientific revolution.

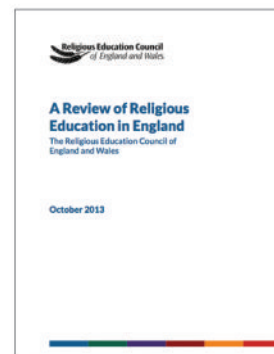
Arabic contributions to mathematics

and science can be traced through many of the words used in English, such as algebra, algorithm and even gibberish.

Jim lamented the view in some parts of the contemporary Arabic world of science as un-Islamic, highlighting its heritage full of historical geni and polymaths like al-Kindi, Ibn al-Haytham, Ibn Sina and al-Biruni, whose achievements should be regarded alongside those of Newton, Galileo and Aristotle.

New RE subject framework puts Humanism on equal footing

In October, the Religious Education Council for England and Wales published its new RE Subject Framework, replacing the 2004 Framework.



The document follows on from a two-year review – involving Andrew Copson on the steering group – and, for the first time, gives non-religious worldviews comparable

status to those of religions. In total, across the 19 pages, there are 100 references to teaching about non-religious beliefs, including in Michael Gove’s foreword.

We will be encouraging this inclusivity to be taken up by locally agreed syllabuses and individual schools when they next revise their syllabuses.

News in brief

History of Humanist Housing

A history of the Humanist Housing Association was published in October by its modern descendant, Origin Housing. The publication details the fascinating journey the organisation has undergone since it was set up in 1955 to provide housing to those in need in the wake of the Second World War.

You can download the full publication from the Origin Housing website at www.originhousing.org.uk.

AHS training day

On 19 October the BHA's offices were taken over by the National Federation of Student Atheist, Humanist and Secular Student Societies (AHS) for its first ever officer training day.

12 students from across the UK attended workshops led by BHA staff and former AHS Presidents on starting new societies, people management, publicity and campaigning.



Training day: AHS officers taking it all in

An exploration of the supernatural

The Centre for Inquiry UK, the section of the BHA that applies science and reason to questions regarding religion and the supernatural, pressing contemporary ethical dilemmas, and social and political issues, hosted a Halloween Special event exploring the myths and history of vampires, zombies, and ghosts.

The event featured editor of *The Skeptic* magazine Deborah Hyde, Professor Chris French of Goldsmiths University's Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit, writer and science communicator Frank Swain, and Scott Wood of the London Fortean Society.

First Steiner Free School opened despite widespread local opposition

We were alarmed to discover that the first Steiner Free School was approved to open in Frome, Somerset despite the majority of the local population, the local Council, other local schools and the local NHS Trust all opposing it during the consultation process. The one previous state Steiner school, an Academy that opened in Hereford in 2008, was also opened in spite of overwhelming local opposition.

James Hemming award ceremony

We were delighted to welcome the winners of the 2013 annual James Hemming essay competition to the award ceremony in London in September.

The competition asked entrants to consider Bertrand Russell's statement that 'A good world needs knowledge, kindness and courage. It does not need a regretful hankering after the past or a fettering of the free intelligence by the words uttered long ago by ignorant men'.

The top three essayists were Daisy Jones of Downe House School; Sahar Abas of Kingsbury High School, and Agata Siuchninska of St. Leonards-Mayfield School.

The essays can be read at www.hemmingprize.org.uk

LSE Freshers' Fair

During their October Freshers' Fair, the London School of Economics Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society were threatened with expulsion – by union and university officials, accompanied by security guards – for wearing t-shirts displaying a strip from the popular *Jesus and Mo* cartoon.

The unjustified censorship attracted attention from national media. The AHS, with its partners at the BHA, have supported the society with legal advice. The Society submitted a formal complaint in November and are awaiting a response.



LSE students pictured wearing the 'offensive' T-shirts

First Community school to join Diocesan Academy chain

A primary school in Fulham has become the first community school to propose to join a Church of England Diocesan Academy chain without becoming a designated Church school in the process. Such a move has only been possible since the Government changed the rules in July.

The school is only considering becoming an Academy as a result of the Borough proposing to close it in order to make room for a new Church secondary school.

Lord Baker: expanding the number of religious schools is 'very wrong'

Lord Baker, the Conservative former Education Secretary who first introduced the National Curriculum, has joined the Accord Coalition, voicing his opposition to the recent expansion in the number of religious schools. He believes strongly that 'children of all faiths – Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist – and atheists should all study together, play together, eat together, go on the bus together.'

UKAFHA Royal Navy Representative meets Chaplain of Fleet, and presents at Equality and Diversity Advisers Conference in Devonport

The UK Armed Forces Humanist Association (UKAFHA) Royal Navy Representative Matt Hicks has been working strategically to increase understanding of the needs of non-religious personnel in the Royal Navy. In October he met with the Chaplain of the Fleet Rev Scott Brown to continue to develop the positive working relationship already established, and to advise on how the Chaplaincy can support UKAFHA and non-religious personnel.

Matt also presented at the Royal Navy Equality and Diversity Advisers Conference in Devonport, taking the opportunity to explain the aims of UKAFHA to key personnel in the Royal Navy.

TAKE ACTION: Write to your MP on selective schools in your area

On the front page we've outlined the Fair Admissions Campaign's new map showing how religiously, socio-economically and ethnically selective English secondary schools are. This can be found at www.fairadmissions.org.uk/map.

We'd also like to urge you to write to your MP about the important issue of school admissions – perhaps with reference to the situation in your area. You can do this using our tool at www.tinyurl.com/fairadmissionscampaign.

Freedom of Thought and Expression: World Humanist Congress 2014 – new speakers announced

Next year's World Humanist Congress in Oxford is going to be unmissable. We have an astonishing line up of speakers and sessions ranging from new media and how it has changed the way we have revolutions, through to censorship, offence and the difficult legal landscape surrounding this, the war for children's minds, and whether science or philosophy provides us with the better model for freedom of speech and expression.

Newly announced speakers include chemist and BHA Distinguished Supporter Professor Peter Atkins, who once said

that 'we need to encourage society to escape from the grip of religion and superstition, and to allow the human spirit liberty'; and Humanist Philosopher Janet Radcliffe-Richards, author of *The Sceptical Feminist*, Professor of Practical Philosophy at the University of Oxford, and former Director of the Centre for Bioethics and Philosophy of Medicine at University College London.

We are also delighted to host Danish human rights lawyer and self-described 'free speech fundamentalist', Jacob Mchangama; Professor of Law at King's

College, London, Maleiha Malik, whose research includes legal theory, feminist theory and discrimination law; and Catherine Dunphy, acting Executive Director of the Clergy Project, which is a confidential online community for active and former professional clergy or religious leaders who do not hold supernatural beliefs.

Registration is now open. Don't miss out on the event of a life-time! Book at www.whc2014.org.uk.



World Humanist Congress 2014 Oxford, United Kingdom 8-10 August, 2014

Nicklinson, Lamb and 'Martin' assisted dying cases to be heard at Supreme Court

Hearings will take place in December at the Supreme Court with nine judges in the cases of Paul Lamb, seeking the right to an assisted death; Jane Nicklinson, the widow of Tony Nicklinson, who also sought an assisted death; and a claimant known as 'Martin' in the same position.

In its evidence to the Court of Appeal earlier in the year, the BHA submitted that, 'Being able to die, with dignity, in a manner of our choosing must be understood to be a fundamental human

right... Our position is that the right to choose when to die is inextricably linked to the right to life.'

The Nicklinson/Lamb cases were lost in the Court of Appeal in August and they will now be heard in the Supreme Court. 'Martin' sought clarity from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) concerning how the DPP will exercise his discretion in relation to assistance from professionals and non-family members when they travel with 'Martin' to the

Dignitas clinic in Switzerland to end his life, as he is severely disabled and unable to make arrangements without the assistance of others. He won his case in the Court of Appeal but the DPP is appealing against the ruling and this will also be addressed at the Supreme Court. The BHA will be an intervener on the side of assisted dying.

Muslim Free School threatened with closure over breaches of funding agreement

The Al-Madinah School in Derby, the first Muslim Free School, is having a new leadership imposed upon it after being found to be in breach of its funding agreement in 17 different areas. Issues included that the school had been forcing female members of staff to wear a hijab, requiring girls to sit at the back of classrooms, and had banned as 'non-

Muslim' the reading of fairy tales, singing and playing stringed instruments.

The school devoted a day and a half a week to religious observance and learning Arabic. The school was ordered to ensure that it does not discriminate against women, teaches a broad and balanced curriculum and is welcoming of those of all faiths and none.

A further issue was that its prospectus said that Darwinism is 'totally against Islam'. All Free Schools are required to teach evolution as a result of BHA campaigning.

Another state funded school, Yesodey Hatorah Girls' School in Hackney, was separately found to have blacked out questions on evolution in science exams.

Non-Prophet Week

It started off as just a pun, but the AHS' Non-Prophet Week has become an annual fixture, with godless students across the country raising money and awareness for a good cause.

Showing students being good without god, Non-Prophet Week was praised by the government in the House of Lords this summer as a great example of the humanist contribution to British society. This year's chosen charity was the Against Malaria Foundation, whose anti-malaria nets enable them to save more lives per pound donated than any other charity in the world.

Fundraising took place from 28 October – 3 November, and featured some very creative ideas, including: Liverpool University Humanists staying up all night for a 24-hour Wikipedia edit-a-thon, cleaning up the online encyclopaedia's Humanism-related entries; Southampton AHS holding their annual pub quiz; UCL organising a scavenger hunt and a blasphemy swear box; Edinburgh organising a 30km run, with the AHS Secretary running twice

Fair Admissions Campaign round-up

The Fair Admissions Campaign's new map showing the selectivity of different state-funded secondary schools is one of several updates on this campaign since the previous issue.

In September, the Campaign published a list of the most socio-economically selective secondaries on the basis of Free School Meal eligibility (in the school compared with their locality). 16% of all comprehensive schools are religiously selective, but those schools include 69 of the 100 most socio-economically selective. The Campaign also published similar research on the proportion of students with English as an additional language.

The BHA also received front page coverage in *The Times* and *Telegraph*,

EHF update: EHF produces European Elections Manifesto

The European Humanist Federation have produced a manifesto in the run up to the 2014 European Union (EU) elections to attempt to influence candidates and parties to sign up to policies endorsing secularism and human rights for all.

The manifesto, available at www.humanistfederation.eu, calls for the EU to: fully respect the principle of the separation of public institutions and churches; remain vigilant in defending secularism against those who attack – directly or indirectly – fundamental rights such as gender equality, LGBT rights, freedom of thought and



around St Andrews; one poor soul (or sole) from Nottingham wearing high heeled shoes non-stop for a week; the AHS Communications Officer writing sponsored short stories; Aberystwyth waxing the AHS' Regional Development Officer for Wales; and the AHS President entering (and losing) a Creme Egg eating competition with the BHA's IT Manager, consuming 2,000 calories each.

Their efforts raised a grand total of £1,320.

firstly as the Archbishop of Canterbury voiced his support for inclusive schools, only to retract it hours later; and secondly as the Bishop of Oxford (erroneously) claimed that Church schools are as inclusive as others.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference also stated its opposition to inclusion, while the London Oratory School has decided to challenge the Schools Adjudicator's recent ruling (in response to our objection) that it must take 'flower arranging' out of its admissions criteria.

Finally, the Campaign held a fringe event at the Labour Party Conference, and Labour Humanists also held an event on fair admissions.

expression, sexual education, freedom of scientific research, and so on; clarify its guidelines regarding the implementation of Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union by European institutions, covering, for example, who is allowed to take part and what topics are discussed; and guarantee complete transparency in appointments to expert and ethical committees assisting the working groups of European institutions.

The BHA will be lobbying alongside our European partners to push these messages out.

Donate

Faith Schools Campaigner appeal

Every year we fundraise for our Faith Schools Campaigner Richy's salary. This year's fundraiser is almost half



way to its target, and we need the rest of the money so that we can continue to employ him. We hope that his work on the front page and elsewhere testifies to his importance.

Please contribute at <http://www.justgiving.com/nofaithschools>.

Every single donation we receive is vital.

If you'd like to support us, please send your donations to:
BHA, 39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB (making cheques out to 'BHA'). Or you can donate with a credit or debit card by telephoning 020 7324 3060 or going to:

www.humanism.org.uk/donate

I enclose a donation of £_____

to the **British Humanist Association**

Your Name: _____

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[] I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Using Gift Aid means that for every £1 of your donation, we can claim an extra 25p from the HMRC. All you need to do is complete this form – we do the rest and it costs you nothing!



BHA People

A regular feature introducing some of our staff, volunteers, and Distinguished Supporters.

Liz Lutgendorff

Humanist Heritage and The Pod Delusion

How did you come to identify yourself as a humanist?

I think I've always been a humanist but didn't really know the term for it until I started my MA dissertation, looking at the nineteenth-century secular movement. I also appreciate that my ethical and moral stances are closely related to the values and principles of Humanism.

What does Humanism mean to you?

I often see things through my historical research and so Humanism to me closely relates to over 100 years of struggle for fairness and equal representation for all beliefs and non-belief in law and society. It is the comforting weight against anti-progressive and anti-liberal forces.

What is the best thing about volunteering for the BHA on Humanist Heritage and The Pod Delusion?

It is often meeting many like-minded individuals and nerding out over science, history, and interesting things. It is sharing an unashamed passion for learning and communicating that interest to other people.

What has been your greatest achievement to date?

Gosh. I think The Pod Delusion's almost four-year archive is pretty good. I hope in the next couple years it'll be my PhD in the history of the UK secular movement.

Humanist representatives on local RE councils gather for annual meeting

Humanist representatives on Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (SACREs), the English and Welsh local authority bodies responsible for setting and maintaining RE syllabuses in Community, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools, gathered in London in November for an annual update from us and to share details of local progress.

In recent years the teaching of Humanism in state-funded schools has become increasingly common, and we hope that the new RE subject framework

(see page 2) will make it even more so.

Stephen Shashoua of 3FF, which runs interfaith and belief dialogue events in schools, talked about the work of his organisation and how, when they have a humanist on the panel, they are more popular with the students.

Five out of six SACREs now include a humanist in some capacity or are in the process of admitting one, which represents significant progress – approximately doubling in two years.



Our SACRE representatives, Richy Thompson and David Pollock

BHA meeting with Rt Hon Baroness Warsi

Andrew Copson and Pavan Dhaliwal met with the Minister for Faith and Communities last month, following a statement by Lord Nazir Ahmad in the House of Lords that her remit extended to represent the views of the non-religious. A number of areas were discussed, including the inclusion of a humanist representative at the National Remembrance ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Weeks later the Baroness gave a speech at Churchill College, Cambridge riddled with factual inaccuracies on the role religion had played in previous administrations. She stated that religion is being put back into the 'heart of government,' as it was under Sir Winston

Churchill and Baroness Thatcher after public policy was 'secularised' under the Labour government. She claimed Churchill and Thatcher would have welcomed the Coalition's promise to protect the right of town halls to hold prayers and the creation of more faith schools under Michael Gove's Free Schools programme.

She went on to say that the Coalition is one of the 'most pro-faith governments in the West', and that religious groups must be allowed to provide public services without the state being 'suspicious of their motives... I know that Mrs Thatcher would have approved of devolving power to faith communities.' We clearly have some way further to go!

Celebrants' Conference

The weekend of 26 – 27 October saw over 70 celebrants from our network gather at the Scarman Conference Centre in Warwick for a superb weekend of workshops, talks, debate and number crunching, the latter thanks to Roger McCarthy's excellent research on the rising market for non-religious ceremonies.

Highlights included a provocative but genuine plea against templates and complacency from Charles Cowling, a profound discussion on the impact of bereavement, generated by Virginia

Ironside, and a strongly positive outlook on the potential legalisation of humanist marriages from Andrew Copson and Dr Julian Huppert MP – a case not of 'if' but 'when'.

Celebrants had the opportunity to meet all the Ceremonies staff, as well as to catch up with old friends and make new ones. To all who came, thank you for a terrific weekend and to all of the Celebrants' network, let's build on our success with even more of us coming together next year.

From the Chair



Looking back on the past year, as I suppose we all do as it comes to a close, I feel that this has been another challenging year for the BHA, with some very notable policy and campaign achievements. The issues that we all care about haven't gone away, but the Census and British Social Attitudes surveys confirm that the non-religious, atheists and humanists are an ever larger part of the UK population, and increasingly government is listening to our reasoned and evidence-based input.

On both the world and UK stages, issues of privacy, inequality of income and opportunity, the entitlement beliefs of wealthy elites, and equality of human rights of those with different life choices and beliefs remain at the forefront of debates. We can and should be part of those debates. Whilst we fully intend to continue to include humour in our Humanism, the very serious moral issues on which the BHA has made policy commitments will be areas where we shall go on working hard.

The challenges to the Executive team under Andrew Copson in the past year – moving office, responding to the opportunity to obtain approval for legal humanist marriages, and other campaigns – have meant that our limited resources have been stretched to the limit. We haven't raised as much funding as we would have liked, and, as you will have seen from my latest

funding request, we have to look hard at the priorities for 2014 activities in the light of available income. Please support this and our coming campaigns in the next few months to ensure that these vital activities are continued and developed.

Nevertheless, there is much to look forward to in 2014 and, now, also on a longer timescale for development of the BHA. We are starting to plan much further in advance for the development of our programmes, so that we can see what we need to put in place strategically for our key long-term objectives to have a chance of real delivery.

I want to express the Board's thanks for all the work this year by the staff team, our volunteers in the many programmes and sections that we run, our celebrants and the local groups that are so important for the spread of Humanism around the country. My special thanks also to John Woolhouse who has stood down from the Board after seven years as Treasurer – without his personal efforts on the Board, on accounting and financial policy, we would not have been able to manage necessary changes and achieve what we have over the past few years.

I hope that you have a happy holiday, whatever you want to call it, and look forward to 2014 as another year of growing achievement and influence for the BHA, with a wonderful gathering of humanists from all over the world at the World Humanist Congress in Oxford in August. We have a remarkable array of speakers to inspire and inform us. Be there and help us change the world.

– Robert Ashby

Local Groups Annual Meeting

In November, over 50 representatives from 32 local humanist groups gathered in London to discuss and develop plans for working together better, and to share experiences, best practice, and good ideas for effectively running a successful humanist group.

Local groups play an important role within our organisation: they provide support at a grass-roots level and are often the first point of call for people who want to learn more about Humanism. They also campaign locally, raising the profile of our national campaigns; and they get involved in the wider community through SACREs and educational volunteering programmes. Local group events explore a huge range of issues and fields of interest, including current political issues, science, philosophy, parapsychology, society, and education.

The programme, which was compiled by David Warden, Chair of Dorset Humanists, this year included discussion about the successful work of some groups to engage with religious and community networks and in promoting the representation of humanists on local forums. Delegates were able to learn from each other's successes, innovations, and challenges. Galha, the LGBT humanists, discussed their plans for working more closely with local groups in supporting and campaigning on behalf of non-religious LGBT people, and our Campaigns team explored how we can ensure our work reaches as many people as possible through our existing infrastructure. It is clear to us that, by working together, we can really make a difference.

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work!



Local Groups review

Local Groups round up

South Hampshire Humanists

A 12-session study group under the auspices of Southampton U3A (University of the Third Age) has been set up by the secretary of SHH. At 12 members it is fully subscribed and has attracted much interest among members of this large organisation.

In October each year over 20 members of South Hampshire Humanists meet for lunch at Eastleigh College. The normal cost has been raised to provide a profit to go to the BHA.

SHH's first meeting in January will be addressed by a journalist from *The Guardian* and *Private Eye* on the subject of ethical journalism.

For details contact info@southhamps.humanist.org.uk.

Warwickshire Humanists

One of our newest groups, Warwickshire Humanists, have held two successful events recently. The latest was a discussion of Cicero, the Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, orator, political theorist, consul and constitutionalist, and his Humanism. The group have also hosted a guest speaker from the University of Warwick to discuss humanistic economics.

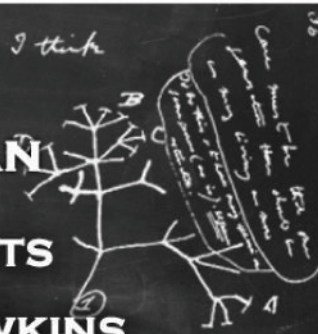
East London Humanists

East London Humanists held a timely event in October at Wanstead Library on the topic of assisted dying. With two speakers, Doctor Phillip Graham, Vice-Chair of Compassion in Dying, and Verena Hewat, Project Director of Dignity in Dying, the event covered issues such as conscientious objection and the potential for particular doctors to become known for their willingness to give consent, as well as personal experiences of members of the audience.

DARWIN DAY LECTURE
12 FEBRUARY 2014
LONDON

HOW TO MAKE A HUMAN

PRESENTED BY
PROFESSOR ALICE ROBERTS
CHAIRD BY
PROFESSOR RICHARD DAWKINS



WWW.HUMANISM.ORG.UK/DARWINDAY

BHA news

This issue was edited and designed by Liam Whitton and the BHA staff editorial team. Please send contributions for the next issue – news, views, quotes, and cuttings of interest to other humanists – marked ‘For publication’ – to editor@humanism.org.uk or ‘The Editor, BHA’ by 13 January.

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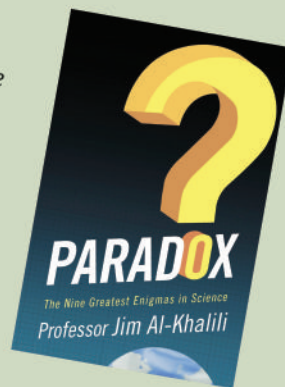
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Win! Win! Win!

We have a signed copy of Jim Al-Khalili's *Paradox: The Nine Greatest Enigmas in Science* to give away to the first person drawn out of a hat who correctly answers the question:

Which nineteenth-century atheist was popularly known as ‘Darwin’s bulldog’?

Email your answer to editor@humanism.org.uk or post to ‘Editor, BHA News’, 39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB by 13 January.



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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.

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