

1 June 2017

Humanists UK  
39 Moreland Street  
London EC1V 8BB  
020 7324 3060  
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of the British Humanist Association

Dear Member,

**Humanists UK Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday 8 July 2017 10.30-17.15**  
***Bishopsgate Institute***

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. It will be our first AGM under our new operating name of Humanists UK. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws will be available on arrival and can also be downloaded from the Humanists UK website at [humanism.org.uk/members](http://humanism.org.uk/members).

Registration for the formal AGM will begin at 13.15. Tea and coffee will be available from 13.00, but lunch is not provided.

There will be three forums in the morning, where staff will report to members on recent activities and members will have an opportunity to discuss that work in greater detail than is possible in the AGM proper. We are also pleased to announce that **Shappi Khorsandi** will address members after the AGM, and the Trustees invite members attending the AGM to stay on for a glass of wine or a soft drink.

So, the full programme for the day will be as follows:

<b>10.30 – 11.30</b>	Community Services Forum led by Teddy Prout, Director of Community Services
<b>11.40 – 12.35</b>	Public Affairs and Policy Forum led by Richy Thompson, Director of Public Affairs and Policy
<b>12.40 – 13.15</b>	Communications Forum led by Liam Whitton, Communications Manager
<b>14.00 – 14.30</b>	Report and Questions with Andrew Copson, Chief Executive
<b>14.30 – 16.00</b>	AGM (registration from <b>13.15</b> )
<b>16.00 – 16.30</b>	Address by Shappi Khorsandi, President of Humanists UK
<b>16.30 – 17.15</b>	A glass of wine (or soft drink) with the Trustees

**2016 Report and Accounts**

The 2016 Report and Accounts are available online at [www.humanism.org.uk/members](http://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](mailto:agm@humanism.org.uk)) or post by **17.00 on 30 June 2017**.

## **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 amend the Articles of Association to increase the number of trustees appointed for particular skills; to receive the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

If you wish to submit any amendments to motions, you must do so by email ([agm@humanism.org.uk](mailto:agm@humanism.org.uk)) or post by **17.00 on 30 June 2017**.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to Humanists UK that have arisen after **1 May 2017**) 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 the 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](mailto:agm@humanism.org.uk)), post, or telephone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Copson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Copson  
Company Secretary, British Humanist Association

**Humanists UK**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday 8 July 2017 14.30 (registration from 13.15)**  
**Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH**

**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 2016 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. Announcement of the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees
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 Humanists UK's operation or existence, and be related to issues which have newly arisen since 1 May 2017, 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**  
**1 June 2017**

**British Humanist Association**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held on Saturday 09 July 2016, 14.30 – 16.00 at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH**

**Present:** John Adams, Deborah Ainger, Debbie Allen, Russell Ambrose, Robert Ashby, James Baird, Alan Bartlett, John Baxter, Michelle Beckett, Nicola Bell, Chris Beney, Andrew Bennett, Tony Brewer, Jenny Bryant, Nicholas Burns, David Olof Carney, Barry Cartman, John Catt, Barbara Chandler, Jenny Clarke, Clive Coen, Russell Crew-Gee, Stells Dessoy, Elizabeth Donnelly, John Dowdle, John Edwards, Blaise Egan, Stephen Giles Frankiss, Tamar Ghosh, Lyn Glass, Brian Goredema-Braid, Hannah Green, Bruce Greenwood, John Hanger, Allan Hayes, Carol Hayes, Roy Heaps, Alan Henness, Kate Hobson, Rick Holland, Monica Humphries, Charley Jarrett, Nigel Jordan, Paul Kaufman, Elisabeth Kean, Toby Keynes, John Kingston, Steve Kirby, Wendy Kirk, Martin Lake, Christine Lawrence, Alex Lines, Wolter Mannerfelt, Derek Marcus, Richard Mascall, Robert McFarland, Sara Melly, Nigel Melly, Mike Miller, Bill Miller, David Milne, Peter Morgan, David Morris, Daniel Nabarro, Tam Neal, Jeannette Nelson, Warren Newman, Len Newton, Richard Norman, Marie Oatham, Ron Oatham, Guy Otten, Janet Pardue-Wood, Iain Paterson, Rafael Manuel Pepiol, David Pollock, Mary Porter, John Ricketts, Michael Rickwood, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Nigel Ross, Andy Rushton, Leo Samolis, Christine Seymour, Imtiaz Shams, Christine Simons, Peter Skingley, Christine Smith, Alison Stein, Bill Stephenson, Ian Symons, Anna Tagliaferro, Sudhirkumar Tailor, James Taylor, Ken Thomas, Eric Thompson, Brian Tolman, Bryan Tully, Mike Turner, Arash Vaziri, Amy Walden, Phil Walder, Ray Ward, Mark Wardrop, Deborah Waters, Ray White, Werner Wiethege, David Yeates, Alexander Zeffertt

**Staff in attendance:** Andrew Copson, Pavan Dhaliwal, Luke Donnellan, Jay Harman, Ian Khouv, Catriona McLellan, Stephen Miceli, Blakeley Nixon, Simon O'Donoghue, Iyabo Ojo, Teddy Prout, Edward Robinson, Isabel Russo, Suraiyya Samiya, Ian Scott, Boyd Sleator, Richy Thompson, Andrew West, Liam Whitton

**Apologies for Absence:** Joan Bakewell, Geoff Bond, David Brittain, Linda Brittain, Chris Butterworth, Neil Camp, Hilary Collins, Les Collins, Graham Cooper, Sue Cox, Michael du Pré, Shreela Flather, John Stuart Grainger, Anna Gray, Bernard Halter, Lyndon Harrison, Dianne Hayter, Ramon Henson, Mary Honeyball, Richard Jacques, Anna Kitab, Jean Laidler, Jessica Layfield, John Leeson, Clive Lewis, Ewan Main, Robert Mill, Diana Naumann, Paula Palmer, Alan Palmer, Naomi Phillips, Maggie Platts, Joe Platts, Kathy Riddick, Alom Shaha, Hayden Strawbridge, Ariadne Tampion, Mary Walker, Christine Watson, Michael Watson, Michael Whincup, John Woolhouse, David Wright

**Adoption of Standing Orders:** On the proposal of Robert Ashby (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:** No motions having been presented for debate, the Chair dispensed with the appointment of Tellers and a Timekeeper.

**Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 11 July 2015:** On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con*.

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

**Chair's address:** Robert Ashby reported on the past year's activities, highlighting the BHA's many successes and the hard work ahead. He noted the significant cash and investment resources that the organization now had and that it was the responsibility of the Board to use those resources in a manner which significantly enhances the role of the BHA in British public life. He noted the significant wins of the past year which include great progress in pastoral care and continued growth of the events schedule. He acknowledged that this would be his final address as he would be stepping down as Chair following the AGM. He expressed his thanks to fellow officers Patricia Rogers (Vice-Chair) and John Adams (Treasurer) as well as to the Chief Executive, Andrew Copson. He also thanked his fellow Trustees noting how effective the Board had been. Further thanks were expressed to everyone that he had had the pleasure of working with over the years. He commented on the future of the BHA and spoke of how we must use humanist principles to counteract prejudice especially in the current social and political climate.

**Election to the Board of Trustees:** The five candidates for the five vacancies on to the Board of Trustees were approved unanimously by show of hands without objection. The following candidates were elected (in order of election): COPLEY, Tom; MAIN, Ewan; POLLOCK, David; SHAHA, Alom; SHAMS, Imtiaz. Thanks were expressed by all those present to all candidates who stood. Thanks were expressed by the Chair to Natalie Haynes who left the Board this year.

**Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015:** John Adams (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. The Treasurer noted that the financial situation was good and that this was the third year running he was reporting a surplus. The Treasurer reported a rise in legacies being partly responsible for the surplus and explained that legacies cannot be planned for. The report and accounts for 2015 were accepted *nem con*.

**Re-appointment of Auditor:** Knox Cropper were reappointed as auditor *nem con*.

**Remuneration of Auditor:** The trustees were authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

**Special Resolutions:** None

**Other Motions:** None

**Emergency Motions:** No motions had been received.

**Any other Business:** None

**BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
**(‘Humanists UK’)**  
**Company Number: 228781**

**Notice of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the 2017 Annual General Meeting of Humanists UK will be held at the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH on 8 July 2017 at 14.30 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

**Ordinary Resolutions:**

1. To receive the Humanists UK’s annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to Humanists UK to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting of Humanists UK where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

**Special Resolution:**

4. 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 Board is presenting 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 22.3 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.*

**Date:** 1 June 2017

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD**

**Registered Office:**  
39 Moreland Street  
London  
EC1V 8BB



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**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 Humanists UK's registered office no later than 14.30 on 6 July 2017. 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 7 July 2017 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.

**BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
**(‘Humanists UK’)**  
**Form of Proxy**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ being a member of Humanists UK hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting or \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting of Humanists UK to be held on 8 July 2017 and at any adjournment thereof.

Resolution	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2016				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor’s remuneration				
4	Special Resolution to amend 22.3 of the Articles of Association to i. Increase the maximum number of trustees from 15 to 17 ii. Allow trustees to appoint up to five trustees to the Board				

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

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017

.....  
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 Chairman 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 6 July 2017. 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 of Humanists UK at 17.00 on 6 July 2017 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.