

# Suffolk Humanists and Secularists

Newsletter October 2017

## "The church of scientology and Going Clear"



*L Ron Hubbard: "If you want to get rich you start a religion"*

### **10th October: "The church of scientology and Going Clear" John Mellis**

In a change of title our October talk will be given by John Mellis about the church of scientology, the revelations in the book by Lawrence Wright "Going Clear" and the recent documentary film by Alex Gibney of the same name. Described in the Guardian as "Alex Gibney's wrecking-ball job on Scientology" it not only examines the background to the religion but raises interesting questions about how religions in general may emerge,

Details are:

Place: The Darwin Room:  
Arlington's Brasserie,  
Museum St.  
Ipswich.

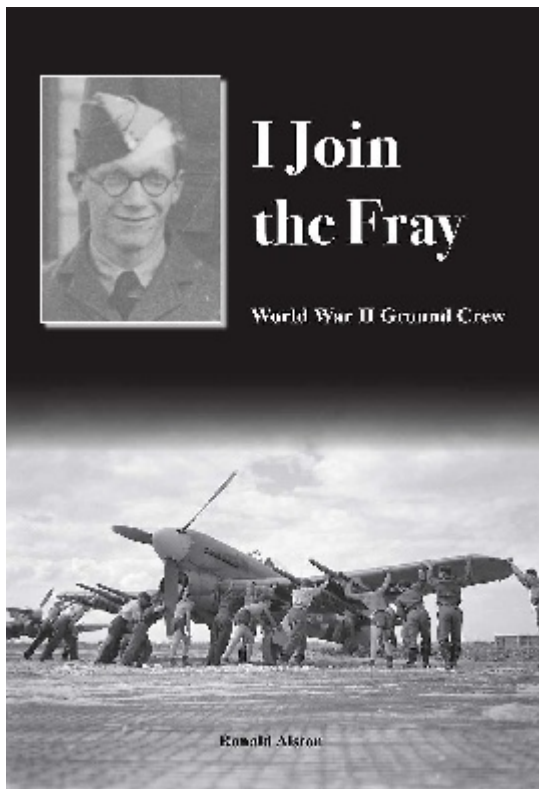
Time and date: 7.30 p.m. 10th October

### **Review of 12th September meeting**

It was very pleasing to see such a good turnout for this meeting and with several new members we had to get extra chairs in. The talk covered the impact that ice ages had upon evolution. Rather than just cover human evolution it explored the role that major ice ages had had on the origins of life which is now known to have existed in microbiological form at least three billion years ago. That is very soon after the earth had cooled sufficiently for liquid water to be present.

Over the aeons the atmosphere cooled dramatically and then heated up again many times. Surprisingly these enormous temperature excursions were often driven by life itself. Micro organisms absorbed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which resulted in a drop in temperature and this effect was amplified by a consequent increase in sunlight being reflected back into space from the initial ice coverage. This continued until the organisms were unable to survive whereupon they stopped absorbing carbon dioxide. The amount of carbon dioxide increased again and the atmosphere warmed up again.

This cycle repeated but not only were there mass extinctions each time the earth froze but each time the ice retreated new species rapidly evolved from the few survivors. Alongside these major ice ages there have been many smaller cycles. These have not necessarily resulted in mass extinction but each time the ice advanced members of one species became geographically separated from the others and subsequently evolved to survive in very different environments.



Alston's anecdotal style makes this book a must read for anyone interested in air force history or looking for an insight into the values, behaviour and humour of that time."

The book is available at bookstores and more information is on the website.:  
<https://ronalston.co.uk/i-join-the-fray-by-ron-alston/>

### **Future Tuesday evening meetings-**

10th October: John Mellis "The church of scientology and Going Clear"

14th November: to be confirmed

12th December. No meeting (UN event)

### **I Join The Fray by Ron Alston**

Many of our older members will remember Ron Alston, who was one of the founder members of the Suffolk Humanists. Towards the end of his life he wrote a book which has now been published by his wife Madge Alston.

Summarised as "An account of WWII from the most different of views. The single voice of one of the RAF's ground crew gives a unique insight into military life for the conscript in 1944 and the subsequent post war years as government controlled the demob of personnel back into the civilian economy. This man's story is a satire and a social history which puts a smile on your face as well as somber reflection.

### **Monthly lunchtime meetings:**

Saturday 30th September 2017

Saturday October 28th

As usual these will be at 12:00 noon at the Duke of York in Woodbridge.

Please let me know if you are going to attend by Thursday 28th September.

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or phone 01394387462.

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