

Suffolk Humanists and Secularists

Newsletter September 2017

"The Ice Ages and Evolution"

(change from previous topic)



Change of dates for talks

We have had to swap our talks for September/October and the talk by John Mellis on Bertrand Russell: Man against god" will now be on the 10th October.

So instead on . **Tuesday 12th September I will be giving a talk on "The Ice Ages and Evolution".** which was originally arranged for October.

This was inspired by several talks I have heard over recent years about both subjects and this is an attempt to link them together.

Most of us are aware that more than 99% of all species that have ever existed have gone extinct and until recently these extinctions were due to 'natural' changes in habitat. Amongst these changes the ice-ages have been of great significance. At the same time those processes that caused extinctions created opportunities for other species to rapidly evolve. In the talk I will cover the causes of ice ages and their known effects over much of the age of the earth as well

as some of the effects that recent ice ages are thought to have had upon human evolution.

Details are:

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

Time and date: 7.30 p.m. 12th September

2017 AGM

There was a good turn out for our AGM at Sue Hewlett's house :Thank you again Sue and Bill for arranging a wonderful evening.

Reports were distributed and accepted and a new committee elected as follows:

Chair: Denis Johnston

Secretary: Elisabeth Thomson,

Treasurer: John Mellis

Members:

Sue Hewlett, Mike Whybray, George Bethell.

The Freethinker reports that the new Belfast Mayor is an Atheist

I used to subscribe to the paper version of Freethinker but it stopped arriving some time ago and I now realise that it has gone completely on-line and is free. With its strapline "The Voice of Atheism since 1881" it is an excellent source of interesting entertaining and scurrilous reporting.

I have just had a look at the recent edition and was delighted to see that the new Lord Mayor of Belfast is an atheist. Needless to say this has been regarded as scandalous by many of the great and the good of the fine city in which I was born. For more see: www.freethinker.co.uk.

Even more are not religious.

And in the UK the latest report (today Sept 4th 2017) from the National Centre for Social Research has released the latest statistics showing that 53% of the UK population now says that they are not religious. Two thirds of 25-34 years said they were not religious. See <http://natcen.ac.uk>

Denis Johnston.

Membership Subscriptions?

Most of our members now pay annually by standing order but for those who don't they will either find a payment form with this Newsletter or should receive one separately by post.

If one is not attached and you prefer to pay this way please let us know (contact details below)

Future meetings-

10th October: John Mellis "Bertrand Russell Man against God"

14th November: Liz Thompson "Religion and Superstition"

12th December. No meeting (UN event)

Over the next few weeks your committee will be putting together a programme for 2018.

If any members are willing to give a talk or who know of a good speaker who would be suitable please let us know.

Suffolk Humanists & Secularists

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