

Suffolk Humanists and Secularists

Bulletin August 2018

AGM and Barbecue 21st August.

Our 2018 AGM will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st August followed by a b this year will be hosted by John and Anthea Mellis at their home in Stutton.

The address is

Old Pond House
Catts Close
Stutton
IPSWICH
IP9 2SP

As in previous years please bring a plate of food plus drinks to share.

To help with preparations and catering please let John and Anthea know if you will there by emailing mellisj@btinternet.com or by calling 01473 327061

If you are a (paid up) member you should have already received information and voting slip about the changes that need to be made to our constitution.

If you have not received this then it is possible that your membership has expired. A renewal form is attached. Please note that if your membership has expired and you wish to attend and take part at the AGM this must be returned to the treasurer (details on the form) before 20th August.

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of last AGM.
3. Matters arising.
4. Reports:
 - Chairperson.
 - Secretary.

- Treasurer/membership secretary.
5. Nomination and election of committee:
 - Chairperson.
 - Vice-Chairperson.
 - Secretary.
 - Treasurer.
 - Two committee members.
 6. Motions
 7. AOB.

Chair's report

Our regular monthly meetings have continued throughout the year but problems with the Arlington's venue meant that we have moved to the EEFA rooms. As ever attendances are varied – sometime 15 people and sometimes only half a dozen.

A highlight of the year was a visit to Thomas Paine's house in Thetford (thanks to Sue Hewlett for organising) and this had the bonus of getting us a slot on BBC Radio Suffolk to talk about it and its relevance to humanism.

Our pub lunch meetings have also been scheduled on a monthly basis but attendance at these has been patchy and one or two had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

The committee has met regularly.

Our main formal links with education are via Humanists UK, SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee on RE) and via EEFA (East of England Faiths Agency). The number of school visits this year has been far greater than in the past – mainly though invitations via Humanists UK and EEFA.

My thanks to George Bethell who has taken over the editing of a quarterly Newsletter which has been well received. I have continued to provide a shorter bulletin in the intervening months.

Very few members now opt to receive a posted version of News letters/bulletins with all others receiving email versions. However this has had its downside because getting members to renew their annual subscriptions via reminders in bulletins/Newsletters does not work very well. This may be because it requires printing out the form which may not be possible for some.

So although we have well over a hundred subscribers to the Newsletters (even after the GDPR exercise to get approval) the number of paid-up members has declined considerably and is now below 40.

Yet again I'd like to appeal to anyone who feels they have something to offer the group as a committee member, speaker or whatever to offer their services. We particularly need to (and must) find a way to attract younger members who can take an active part and future proof humanism in Suffolk.

Denis Johnston.

The Secretary's report and the Financial report will be presented at the AGM

Future Events

Tuesday 21st August at 7:00 pm. AGM and barbecue

Tuesday 11th September "The ethics of being a vegan"

Tuesday 9th October TBA

Tuesday 13th November "War poetry".

Monthly Lunchtime meetings

There will not be an August lunchtime meeting as it clashes with the bank holiday. Our next lunchtime meeting will be at the Duke of York, Woodbridge on Saturday 29th September.

Finally ...A new Cafe Scientifique event in Ipswich

In the past some of us sometimes went along to the Cafe Scientifique in Ipswich but it seems to be less frequent now than it was then. However there is a CS event taking place on the morning of 6th October. It is about Air Quality and will have a particular focus on Ipswich.

You can find out more via a website

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-air-ipswich-raising-awareness-fostering-collaboration-taking-action-on-air-pollution-tickets-48951763041>

The event is free but you will have to register.

Suffolk Humanists & Secularists

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