

Suffolk Humanists and Secularists

News Bulletin July 2018

"Partnerships, Affiliations and 2018 AGM."

Next Meeting Tuesday, 10th July: "Partnerships Affiliations and AGM"

As I am sure most members know there are quite a number of groups/organisations throughout the UK that champion and represent the views of the 'non-religious'.

Our local group (SHANDS) is one but there are many others. Most are small local groups but there are also larger bodies claiming a National role such as the National Secular Society (NSS) and Humanists UK (HUK), formerly known as the British Humanists Association (BHA).

For many years, probably from the beginning, SHANDS has been affiliated to both the BHA and the NSS and this affiliation is specifically mentioned in our Constitution. However they are completely separate organisations so being a member of the BHA or NSS does not make somebody a member of SHANDS (or vice versa).

Recent changes in the BHA and in SHANDS mean that we need to review and amend our Constitution at this year's AGM on August 21st.

Changes are:

1. The BHA has renamed itself as Humanists UK
2. It is not now possible for us to be an 'Affiliate Member' of the new Humanists UK - we must either become full 'Partners' or nothing
3. We need to reflect the fact that our AGM has now slipped to August

We had hoped to be able to get someone from HUK to come our July meeting to speak on this but unfortunately they can't send anyone before September.

As we are clearly going to have to make a change to the constitution one way or another it is important that members have an opportunity to both understand the issues and contribute their views so that we can come to a consensus that can be proposed and accepted at the AGM.

If you wish to read the constitution you can download it by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Those who get this by post will find one included.

Hopefully the discussion will not dominate the whole evening and we can also cover some related issues including publicity and advocacy.

As usual we will meet at 7.30 p.m. at The Co-op/EEFA Meeting Rooms, 47 St Helen's Street, Ipswich, IP4 2JL (photograph below)



There is a large car park at the front which is open from 7:15. and the entrance to the EEFA rooms is at the rear of the building.

Between 7:15 and 7:40 there will always be somebody there to help you. For security reasons we have to keep the door closed while it is unattended so if you arrive late I have provided a radio linked bell-push which will be attached to the outside of my car in the car park (see overleaf).



A BIG THANK YOU for an amazing response to the GDPR request.

As you are all aware we are required to be compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations(GDPR) and in April/May I contacted all our members and supporters who are on our Newsletters/Bulletins list to get their approval.

The positive response has been remarkably good - out of 150 or so email requests that I sent out 96 (64%) said 'YES' which is way beyond what similar groups have achieved.

Also in May a small number (27) of members were still receiving Newsletters by post and to comply with GDPR I contacted them as well. Here the response rate was even higher with 20 of the 27 replying positively and some even sent a note of appreciation. Many also said that they were now happy to receive future Newsletters by email instead.

Sadly I also received messages telling me that some members/supporters who I had never met

but whose names were familiar had died.

The exercise has allowed a very timely review of who our members/supporters are - and where they come from - I was surprised to discover that 13% of those supporters requesting information are in N America.

Denis Johnston

Upcoming events

July 10th: Partnerships and Affiliations?
August 21st: AGM and barbecue at Stutton
Sept 11th: The ethics of being a vegan
Nov 13th: War poetry
December (date to be advised): United Nations Celebration

Monthly Lunchtime meetings

Duke of York last Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon. The next one is July 26th.
Let me know if you are attending :
denisjohnston@btinternet.com or 01394387462

Contributions for the next Newsletter:

The next Newsletter will be published in September. If you have an article to contribute or ideas for topics to be covered in future editions please let George Bethell know. You can email him at: shands.editor@gmail.com

Suffolk Humanists & Secularists

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