



At our meeting on Tuesday 14th July our guest speaker will be astronomer Mike Haynes. Using images from some of the most powerful telescopes, his talk explores the universe from the here and now, moving steadily further and further from Earth and hence further back in time (almost) to the Big Bang. After 400 years of scientific investigation you will see that we still have many more questions than answers.

For venue and times, see back page.

← One of the Hubble telescope's most famous images, 'Pillars of Creation, shows stars forming in the Eagle Nebula.

Recently there's been an overwhelming referendum vote in favour of same-sex marriage in Ireland, which a senior Vatican official called "a defeat for humanity", and an American Supreme Court ruling struck down state marriage bans, meaning that all US states must grant marriage licences to gay and lesbian couples and recognise marriages that have taken place in other states, despite predictable objections from fundamentalist crack-pots. Since 26th June, same-sex marriage is legal in 18 countries, and more are planning to change their laws.



Before civil partnership and then same-sex marriage were introduced in the UK, Suffolk Humanist celebrants conducted several wedding ceremonies for local lesbian couples. It would be interesting to know if they're all happily married now.

Postponed AGM

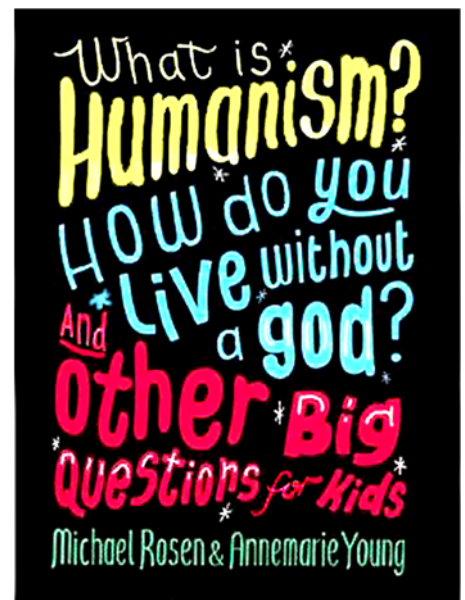
The AGM planned for our May meeting was inquorate, so no decisions could be taken. It's hoped that the necessary business can be swiftly dealt with at the garden party next month, before the fun and games begin—see back page.

A new book: What is Humanism?

How do you Live without a God? And Other Big Questions for Kids (Wayland) by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young.

"... if you wanted to send some ambassadors into schools to talk both sensitively and inspiringly about humanism to a diverse mix of school children, you couldn't do much better than enlist Michael Rosen, Annemarie Young and their chosen tribe of famous, clever and funny helpers to do the job."

Myra Zepf—New Humanist





Suffolk Humanists & Secularists

For the good life, without religion

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Founded in 1991, we're affiliated to The British Humanist Association, The National Secular Society, and Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource. Sympathetic non-members are welcome but by joining us you'll help us to raise awareness of Humanism and Secularism, and to challenge the increasing influence of religion in public life, the arts and the media.

Humanism is an ethical approach to life without religion; humanists think we can be good without God. Secularism is the belief that religion should have no place in civil affairs; that the church and state should be kept separate.

Suffolk
Humanist
Ceremonies
01473 658828

Why not join in the conversations on our website (URL below), on Facebook (www.facebook.com/suffolkhands) or Twitter (@suffolkhands)? Find us on www.meetup.com and on Google Calendar (<https://goo.gl/NeMDBp>).

Dates for your dairy

Tuesday 14th July—7.30pm meeting in the Darwin Room on the first floor of Arlington's Brasserie, Museum Street, Ipswich IP1 1HE. Guest speaker Mike Haynes—see overleaf. Car parking in one of the nearby public car parks. Family and friends very welcome.

Saturday 25th July—Pub lunch at noon in The Duke of York on the corner of Old Barrack Road and Ipswich Road, Woodbridge IP12 4BY. Please let Denis know if you plan to come by Monday 20th, as he has to book a table.

Sunday 9th August—2pm meeting in the 1st floor seminar room at Hadleigh Library, on the corner of the High Street and Duke Street. Free parking in the Magdalen Road council car park, opposite. Film—The Atheism Tapes—Jonathan Miller's conversations with some distinguished atheists, filmed for his BBC TV series, A Brief History of Disbelief.

Tuesday August 25th—7.30pm AGM, then barbecue at the Hewletts' place in Stutton. Please contact Sue to let her know you're going by Monday 10th August—01473 328541 or sue.hewlett@sky.com. Directions supplied.

Monday 7th September (note not the usual Tuesday)—time and venue as on 14th July. London headteacher Mary Todd on the challenges of teaching in a city school with a multi-ethnic catchment area. Mary is head of a large Tower Hamlets primary school. She's always taught in challenging schools, starting her career in Hackney and becoming an assistant head before taking on the headship of a school with a four form entry.

Saturday 26th September—Pub lunch at noon in The Duke of York. Please let Denis know if you plan to come by Monday 21st.

If you need or can offer a lift, please get in touch. (If anyone travels from the Hadleigh area and can give me a lift occasionally, I'd be grateful—Margaret)

www.suffolkhands.org.uk

www.agoodlifewithoutreligion.com