

# Suffolk Humanists Monthly Bulletin

February 2019

## "Darwin Day"

**Next meeting** - Tuesday 12th February

To celebrate Darwin Day we are having a get together and meal in the Darwin Room at Arlington's Restaurant on the evening of 12th February.

Numbers are limited and (at time of writing) there are only two places left. If you wish to book and have not yet done so please email me at [denisjohnston@btinternet.com](mailto:denisjohnston@btinternet.com).

Arlington's was originally the Ipswich Museum. It was constructed in 1846 and funded by benefactors including George Ransome, one of the Quaker families of Ipswich which ran Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies factories.

In the early years, from 1847 to 1853, it was run by a committee on behalf of subscribers, with open evenings for the public to gather and gain knowledge and hear the latest scientific theories.

Although there is no record of Darwin having visited the museum was the home territory of Rev John Stevens Henslow, who was museum president from 1850 to 1861.

Henslow had been Darwin's mentor at Cambridge and many of the Ipswich Museum collections were built up at the time of Darwin's publication "On The Origin of Species".

There are records of Henslow giving talks at the museum and reporting upon Darwin's latest findings and a few years ago correspondence from Darwin to Henslow was discovered in the museum archive.

**January meeting.**

Unfortunately, due to illness, our speaker had to cancel but he will now be coming for our March meeting (see below).

Instead we had a discussion about the general future for the group followed by a 'wine and nibbles' social event. Thank you George for providing both!

The main issues raised concerned the location for meetings as numbers grew and the present meeting place (the Multifaith/EEFA Centre) had access problems. Our need to progress to becoming partners with Humanists UK was also a pressing issue. We were also able to identify a number of interesting topics for future meetings for the committee to work on.

**March meeting.**

On March 12th we will have the talk about the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust that was originally scheduled for January.

This will be by the Trust's Chair, Steve Hurd.

We are keen to have a good audience. So please do your best to come along.

UHST helps schools in Uganda working to offer liberal, humanist education to needy children. Founded by Ugandan Humanists and run as charities, the schools are inclusive and do not discriminate on grounds of religion, social or ethnic background.

UHST currently supports three schools: Isaac Newton High School, Katera, Masaka; Mustard Seed School, Busota, Kamule; and, Kasese Humanist Primary School.

Steve will talk about the challenges of promoting a humanist ethos in schools in a highly religious country.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2019**

The theme of this years Holocaust Memorial Day which took place at the University of Suffolk on 26th January was "Torn from Home".

It included presentations from the local Jewish community with Elizabeth Sugarman and Mike Levy reflecting upon the impact the Holocaust had upon their families. The event involved several presentations by pupils and staff from Northgate School. This included a dance routine illustrating the 'Torn from Home' theme and a Question and Answer session where pupils interviewed Ipswich resident Frank Bright who, at 90, is one of oldest survivors of Auschwitz.

Martin Simmonds from Suffolk Refugee Support talked about the present refugee crisis and introduced Evariste Kanamugire who gave a very moving account of his childhood experience of losing his family, his home and everything during the Rwanda Genocide which ended exactly 25 years ago.

The event attracted a large number of attendees including the Ipswich MP Sandy Martin and Councillor Roger Fern, the former Mayor of Ipswich.

### **Articles for our Spring newsletter**

We aim to publish our Spring at the end of February and would like to include contributions from as many members as possible. If you have something to contribute please contact the editor at [shands.editor@gmail.com](mailto:shands.editor@gmail.com).

### **Future meetings:**

12th February: Darwin Day Dinner

23rd March: Lunchtime Meeting at Duke of York, Woodbridge

12th March: Uganda Humanist Schools Trust

Denis Johnston

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