

Living moral lives without religion



(www.birminghamhumanists.org.uk)

**SUMMER & AUTUMN
PROGRAMME 2009**

**Affiliated to the British Humanist Association,
the National Secular Society and
the Gay & Lesbian Humanist Association.**

Current Programme

Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held in the large room of the Friends Meeting House, at the junction of George Road & St James' Road, Edgbaston, B'ham 15 and start at 7.45 pm.

There is a railway station & bus stops nearby at Five Ways but if you need a lift, please ring one of the committee members and we will try to arrange a lift. It doesn't matter if you are member or not, or even that you aren't sure whether you are a Humanist, please feel free to join us.

Friday 12th June 6.30 for 7.45 pm "ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING"

This year this is being held at the home of Tova & Vic Jones (3 Yelverton Drive, B15 3NT, off Anstruther Road which is off Norfolk Road)

As in recent years, it will be preceded by an informal "American Supper", i.e. bring a plate of smoothing edible with you (not necessarily home-made!) So that everyone can enjoy a variety of food and drink, it would be helpful if people could phone Tova (0121 454 4692) beforehand to co-ordinate what members offer to bring. As you will no doubt be aware, many of the longer-serving committee members are stepping down this year so this could be your chance to get involved in helping to run the group and increase its profile in the West Midlands.

Saturday 27th June 9.30 am to 4.30 pm "MOSELEY FESTIVAL"

After supporting the Harborne Festival last year, we are returning to B13 in 2009 to have a stall at the "MosFest". As usual we need volunteers to 'man' the stall, which will probably be near "Boots" or the "Jewel in the Crown" pub. This year it will feature largely secular & Humanist material rather than 2nd hand books, plus our T shirts and the usual games for the public to try. This is a great opportunity to talk to the general public and promote Humanism and maybe attract a few new members. Please let Percy Lea (0121 427 8497) know when you can help.

Tuesday 7th July 7.30 to 9.30 pm FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL

Another of the successful 'Social Get-Togethers' in the City centre. Come along to Bennett's Bar on the corner of Bennett's Hill and Waterloo Street for a drink and a chat about anything and everything. People can stay for as long or as short as they want and are welcome to bring friends who might be interested in Humanism. Look out for the Group's logo on a table or T shirt and you'll know you've found us.

Wednesday 15th July Meet at 3 pm "TEN PIN BOWLING"

Instead of trying to knock down false beliefs, this is a chance for members to try their hands at knocking down some 'pins' at Stirchley Bowl on the Pershore Road, junction with Cartland Road. Danny Collman is booking some lanes where those with some 'spare' time can 'strike' up some new relationships & re-new old ones while having some fun.

Tuesday 4th August 7.30 to 9.30 pm FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL (as July)

Tuesday 1st September FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL (as July)

Wednesday 16th September 7.45 pm "ECODWELLINGS"

Eddy Hunt gained a Ph.D in Crystallography from Aston University and then followed a scientific & teaching career. Now retired, he has developed ideas on how to build homes that will require none of the usual services and still stay warm in winter (entirely without fuel !) using mainly waste materials. Come along and hear him explain how. Could this be a step towards reducing carbon emissions or an alternative way of living? Is it a taxpayer-friendly form of social housing; a lifeboat for those shipwrecked by the financial crisis? Is it more relevant to the Third World or to disaster zones or is it just a self-evidently crazy idea? You can find out by keeping this date free in your diary and coming along to see Eddie (possibly) chair Eddy.

Tuesday 6th October 7.30 - 9.30 pm FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL (as July)

Thursday 22nd October 7.45 pm "THE GENIUS OF DARWIN"

The second of our Darwin Anniversary Year events when the idea is that we watch a video about Darwin's life and work and then discuss some of his ideas and their implications. It will also give the opportunity for members to consider how far ideas on evolution and acceptance of the idea have changed since Darwin's time.

Tuesday 3rd November FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL (as July)

Thursday 19th November 7.45 pm "THOMAS PAINE : A MISUNDERSTOOD RADICAL"

Robert Morrell M.B.E. (Editor of the Journal of the Thomas Paine Society) has kindly offered to come and speak to us in 2009 – the bicentenary of the death of this great visionary. As a committee we were so preoccupied with the Darwin anniversaries that this one (Paine died in January 1809) slipped past us but fortunately Robert spotted our omission and, as we had no meeting about him, wondered if his views might have been a bit too radical for our group! I hope our members and others interested will come along in numbers to hear him talk about Paine and the Society and re-assure him that they were not.

Tuesday 1st December FIRST TUESDAY SOCIAL (as July)

Chairman

Eddie Roberts
(Standing down at AGM)
eddie_roberts@tiscali.co.uk

Secretary

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Vice Chair

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Treasurer

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Newsletter

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Harry Stopes-Roe

(Not standing for committee next year)
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Bill Green

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For Humanist or Non-religious Ceremonies contact

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What humanists believe:-

Humanism is an approach to life based on humanity and reason.

Humanists believe that moral values are properly founded on human nature and experience alone and think that decisions should be based on the available evidence and an assessment of the outcomes of a person's actions, not on any sacred text or authoritative tradition. Humanists believe that since we have only one life, it is our responsibility to make it a good life and to live it to the full whilst trying to improve the quality of life for everyone. Humanists may describe themselves as atheists or agnostics but Humanism is an active philosophy more enriching than a mere negative response to religion. Humanists are positive, gaining inspiration from human lives, art and culture, and the rich natural world.