

A.G.M 9th April 2013 held in Wendover Memorial Library.

1. 28 members attended the 22nd AGM with apologies from Pauline and Michael Martin, John Savin, Stephen Bowley and Simon Allen.
2. The minutes of April 12th 2012 were approved and there were no matters arising.
3. Chairman Steven West welcomed back Richard Jakeman after his illness, and two new members, and gave a short report on our activities during the year (copy attached).
4. The Chairman also read a short report on the work of Sacre by Elaine Lever which led to a short discussion on the current work of Sacres which is even more important with so many more Faith schools.
5. Finance — Our Treasurer Richard Jakeman presented the accounts which showed a healthy balance. He thanked Steve for taking over the work while he was in hospital. He did not recommend any charitable donations this year as we had made some capital purchases during the year (Projector and screen). The Committee were asked to consider lending these to other organisations and they will do so at their next meeting.
6. Membership — We had 70 paid up members so far this year but there were 8 more who had announced their intention of rejoining.
7. John Dablin was thanked for his work as the Independent Examiner and was re-elected for next year.
8. The committee were re-elected en- bloc for the coming year and a request was made for an additional two people, one for the publicity and one for either the Newsletter or the website.
9. BHA Matters — The Chair reminded us we are members of this association. Oliver Statham had contacted David Lidington in November about being represented at the Armistice Service. He had had a reply from Hugh Robertson stating there was no room for more associations. There followed a short discussion on whether there should be a separate service for non-contestants. (civilians).
 - BHA Campaigns —
 - a Young Atheists Handbook. So far £10 had been raised to equip one third of schools with this book.
 - b Lobbying on National Curriculum.
 - c Interaction with other Associations ie Freedom from Torture.
 - d Hosting this year's international humanists Conference in Oxford.
 - e Pastoral Support for the Non Religious (Hospitals and Prisons).
 - f Case for Assisted Dying.
 - g Abolishing the presence of Bishops in the House of Lords.
10. Future Programmes: There were no ideas from the members but it was suggested that perhaps the Association needed more expertise in publicity that would reach younger people and encourage younger members. However it was recognised that that we as Humanists cannot compete with the social interactions of religions.

Chiltern Humanists

Chairman's Report on 2012

2012 again saw a continuation of the success of our Group with a variety of topics covered at our monthly meetings. We started with Chris French who spoke on Anomalistic Psychology. We reviewed David Attenborough's DVD "People & Planet" followed in November with an alternative view from Greg Claeys. Stephen Law gave a talk based on his book "Young Earth Creationism and other Bullshit". Other topics were Compassion in Dying, Faith Schools (including their admissions policies) and an educational presentation by Anne Marie Waters about Sharia Law in the UK.

One of the high spots of the year was the July debate in Hemel Hempstead on the subject "God is a Delusion". As the debate was organised by a consortium of Hemel churches, it was unlikely we would win the debate but Richard Norman put the Humanist viewpoint over well. Due to low attendance, we decided to cease using the Hemel Hempstead venue.

Where possible, we have continued to respond to requests to talk to local schools about Humanism.

Whilst we do not have a direct influence over SACREs, our interest is maintained through local Humanist celebrant Elaine Lever. Her report is attached.

The Group paid for my ticket to attend the BHA Conference in Cardiff in June whilst I covered the travel and accommodation. I believe this benefited the Group providing ideas and contacts for meetings.

Sadly since the last AGM, 2 former Chairmen of Chiltern Humanists have died. Adrian Wilde and Ralph Ison will be greatly missed.

I would like to recognise the hard work done by the committee; Peter Norman (Website & Newsletter), Richard Jakeman (Treasurer & Membership), Barry Foxcroft (Librarian), Pam Crawford (Minutes Secretary) and our Vice-Chairman Antony Chapman. Also thanks to David Harding who was co-opted during the year. I would also like to mention a few unsung heroes – Pat Bryant for ensuring refreshments are available, Mary Peeler (ably assisted by Chris) for writing reports of our meetings and Noel Gibbard for distributing the Newsletter to those members not on the internet. My thanks to all of these and to the members for their support in the last year.

Steve West