



BIRMINGHAM HUMANISTS

- making sense of life
without religion or superstition.

www.birminghamhumanists.org.uk

SPRING PROGRAMME 2008

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

Birmingham Humanists

Current Programme

Unless otherwise stated, Birmingham Humanists meetings are held at 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 and 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 something. It doesn't matter if you are a member or not, or even that you aren't sure whether you are a Humanist, please feel free to join us.
The Friends Meeting House will be opened 15 minutes early so that members can look at and borrow books from the group's library.*

Wednesday 13th February 7.45 pm "From Dioscorides to Darwin"

Dr Tim Betts who lectures on the history of surgery, animal research and ethics is coming the day after Charles Darwin's birthday to give our Darwin Day lecture.

Saturday 15th March 2.30pm "Thirty Years on from the Sex Discrimination Act and still counting.... When will women be equal to men?"

We are very pleased that Lorely Burt MP has kindly agreed to be the speaker for our Womens' Day event. See front page advert.

NOTE unusual time and day for one of our meetings.

Saturday 12th April "Morning Ramble and Pub Lunch"

John Lester has offered to lead another short walk in a beautiful part of Worcestershire. Meet at the village of Fairfield (Grid Ref SO 94657550) in the car park of The Swan Inn to start walking at 9.30 am. This early start gives us a chance to complete a 4 – 6 mile walk and get back to the pub in time to eat at between noon and 1 pm.

You can come along just to the walk, just for the meal but hopefully both.

Tuesday 15th April 7.45pm "Humanism v Religion Debate"

A fairly informal debate in which 3 speakers from our group, William W-W, Danny C and Harry S-R, will have approximately 10 minutes each to put their views on how far Humanism should be anti-Religion. The floor will then be open for general discussion which is fairly certain to touch on Humanists and the Religious as people as well as their organised beliefs. Members of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists, Worcestershire Humanists and any other interested groups are welcome to join us at George Road for this evening.

Wednesday 14th May 7.45pm "There's No Vision - Like No Vision"

The likely re-arranged date for Anita Morrison-Fokken, Director of Low Vision Services at Alexandra College, to come and speak on the problem of certain aspects of poor sight.

Thursday 19th June 6.30 for 7.45pm "ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING"

There will again be a "Bring A Plate Buffet" before the A. G. M. at the Wynne Willson's, 28 Garland Way, off Heath Road South, Northfield, B31 2BT) Please phone Jane (0121 475 6508) to co-ordinate food and drink offerings. These have been excellent social occasions in the past and, like the AGM, should not be missed by any member!

Worcester Humanist Group

Meetings at Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club, Droitwich Road, Worcester from 15.00-17.00 on these Sundays: -

Sunday March 6 - What is the role of mutation in evolutionary processes? (Radio Four's In our Time with Melvyn Bragg and guests (including Professor Steve Jones discuss) Does 'human morality' come from mutations?

Sunday April 6 - Can or should anyone take part in conspiracy for the sake of freedom? Do fate and freedom maintain a delicate co-existence ultimately? Lawrence Olivier's film version of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* grapples with the force of fate in life against the capacity for free will.

Sunday May 4 - *The Impact of Aristotle* is a comic lecture (yes, it is pretty witty!!) given by comedian Mark Steele in which he analyses how Aristotle's outlook on life and existence can apply to today's world. The edition of Radio Four's *In our time* about friendship began with Aristotle's 'three levels of friendship' (this is serious though, not comic).

Lichfield Humanist Group

The first meetings of the newly formed Lichfield Group have been arranged and are described as being "very informal and open to anyone who would like to meet other humanists and find out more about humanism." They would welcome the support of any of our members, who might possibly find it easier to share transport to get to Lichfield. The meetings are both at the King's Head Pub, Bird Street, Lichfield and start at 8p.m.

Darwin Day, 12th February. Come and celebrate the 199th birthday of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution and great humanist hero. His ideas place science and reason above myth and faith and directly challenge the biblical account of creation.

Tuesday 11th March. A planning and campaigning meeting to focus ideas on future events. For more information and membership enquiries please 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 are positive, gaining inspiration from human lives, art and culture, and the rich natural world.

Humanists believe that people can and will continue to find solutions to the world's problems so that quality of life can be improved for everyone.

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.

Humanists may describe themselves as atheists or agnostics but Humanism is an active philosophy more enriching than merely a negative response to religion.