



Humanism as a Force for Change!

Purpose:

- To enrich the knowledge and commitment of new and existing members.
- To help participants move forward in living their lives as Humanists.
- To enthuse those who attend with the message that we have something really worthwhile and better to offer.
- To link in with the objectives of our Future Vision and Strategy proposals, including how we spread the message of Humanism to a wider public.

Location: The conference is being held in the elegant tapestried Senate Suite which accommodates up to 55 persons. For participants coming from outside our area, both the East Coast and Cross-Country Virgin rail lines have good services to Durham.

Format: After registration, the conference will commence at 10 a.m. when each of the two speakers will address us and take questions until lunch time. The afternoon will have workshops to enable participants to discuss, in smaller groups, points arising from the morning's sessions and other topics related to the conference theme. The day will conclude with a plenary session, in which the speakers will participate, when ideas and questions coming from the workshops can be discussed.

Speakers:

Richard Norman, Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy who taught at the University of Kent for many years, is a founder member of the Humanist Philosophers' Group and is a Vice-President of the BHA. His book, 'On Humanism' has been described as 'A lucid account of Humanism which combines the virtues of a fairly balanced discussion and a passionate polemic. It deserves to become humanism's unofficial manifesto'. The title of Richard's talk will be: **'Shared Human Values: How Shared Are They?'**

Michael Imison has been a BBC script writer and director (including working on 'Dr. Who') and a literary agent representing screenwriters and playwrights. He is currently a Trustee of the BHA and sits on the Ceremonies Management Committee. Michael was, until recently, the Chair of the Suffolk Humanists and he also attends meetings of the independent Association of Humanist Celebrants. The title of Michael's talk will be: **'Humanism - The Healthy Alternative to Religion'**. He will try to outline what such a society would be like and what might be needed to achieve it.

Conference Fee: The fee of £16 will include tea or coffee and biscuits on arrival and during morning and afternoon breaks. For those who qualify for reduced NEH subscriptions, and for full-time students, the fee will be £8.

Lunch: You can bring sandwiches to eat on the Palace Green or take lunch (not included in the fee) at the modestly priced adjacent Cathedral Restaurant or at the Café on the Green.

Parking: We have secured 25 free places on the Palace Green. Please mark the return slip below if you wish to be allocated one of these (first come, first served).

Accommodation for members from other groups: Some NEH members have offered to provide bed and breakfast for the Friday night before the conference. We shall also have other bed and breakfast and hotel information. Please mark the box below if you would like us to contact you for your accommodation requirements.

Informal meal in Durham in the early evening after the conference. If there is sufficient interest, we will arrange this. It would be very helpful if you would mark the box if it would interest you. Details would be provided later.

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To: John Hodge, 43 Fern Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2QU
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Please reserveplace(s) for the May 17, 2008 North East Humanists' Regional Conference. I am enclosing a cheque for (£16, or £8 reduced fee, per person) made out to 'North East Humanists' with 'Regional Conference' on the reverse side.

Name(s)

Address:

Telephone No. Email:

- Please tick boxes, as required:
- If you would like a reserved parking place
 - If you would like information on accommodation
 - If you would like to join in a Saturday evening meal