



**Chris Worfolk Foundation**  
Annual Report 2011

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# Introduction



**Chris Worfolk**  
Trustee

Welcome to the second annual report This is a hard introduction to write because there are so many projects I would love to spend pages writing about – but everything has to be so condensed down that I simply cannot do it justice.

The good news however, is that this is where social media can really excel. Between the blog posts we publish, updates on Twitter and Facebook, photos on Flickr and videos on YouTube, it means we have the ability to share with you so much more than we can fit into an annual report such as this.

Perspective, for example, is spreading across the world. I literally do mean the world – in March of this year we sent a pack to Northshore in New Zealand!

For the first time this year, we're

also seeing long term projects, that have taken years to really get underway, finally start to come to fruition, but are all the more worth the end result because of it.

As ever though, the projects I am really looking forward to are the ones that are yet to come. We have our second annual Sunrise Conference taking place next month and a raft of new projects, which I can't discuss yet, but which we will be publishing news on in the coming months.

I look forward to what the future will bring – I've spoken to some really inspiring people over the past year; people who want to get out there and make a difference and people who already are getting out there and making a difference. We wish them all the best of luck and look forward to working with them over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris J. Worfolk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Worfolk  
Trustee, Chris Worfolk Foundation



# Activities



Top left: First annual holiday food drive. Above: Humanist Action Group training session. Left: Zoroastrian speaker at Perspective Citywide.

## Humanism

Much great work has been done by our community action arm, the **Humanist Action Group**, this year. We've launched a brand new website dedicated to volunteering and published the first in a series of guides on running your own HAG – one on organisation and one on homelessness.

December saw the first annual **holiday food drive** which allowed us to provide a large number of boxes of food to three local hostels thanks to generous donations and volunteers helping us collect and distribute the supplies.

We have also been developing the **Humanist Chaplaincy Network** and are continuing to build on our current documentation and ran our first training session at the Sunrise Conference 2010.

## Education

Last year we launched the second series of our **Perspective** course packs which contain a brand new set of guides to the various faiths you may wish to invite as well as a compressive leader's guide.

We also took the Perspective course to the general public with the introduction of the Leeds **Citywide** course which we staged in February and March of this year which featured a diverse range of faiths, from Scientology to Zoroastrianism.

Our new **Intimate Details** course ran for the first in December, hosted at the University of Leeds by the Atheist Society.

September saw the first annual **Sunrise Conference**, an educational weekend designed to equip people with the skills they need to start, run and manage community groups in their local

area.

In December we began the **Humanist Library Project**, designed to put together the Humanist Library of Leeds, with a target of building a world-class resource for researchers in The North of England.

Already, the library has a collection that spans four centuries with the oldest item in our collection having been printed in 1788.

The **Secular Portal Resource Library** has also been rapidly growing over the past year, allowing groups across the world to share documents and resources between each other.



Above: Building the Humanist Library. Below: Dr Jim Wild talks to Leeds Skeptics in the Pub. Right: Photos from the Sunrise Conference.



## Community

Over the past twelve months, **Leeds Skeptics** has gone from strength to strength with speakers including television producer Jeremy Taylor, Association of Skeptical Enquiry chair Jeremy Taylor, and many others.

The group is now becoming so popular that we can barely squeeze into our venue most months and so many people lined up to speak that bookings will soon run into this time next year!

The **Humanist Community of Leeds** project was due to end earlier this year but due to popular demand it re-launched.



Above: Dr Terrence Kee delivers the first annual Norfolk Lecture. Below (left) Dr Gijbert Stoet at HCoL. Below (right) Humanist Chaplaincy Network stall.



Earlier this year we began supporting **Leeds Transhumanists**, a group for anyone interested in futurism, transhumanism and the singularity.

## Events

In September, the Humanist Chaplaincy Network held its first awareness event, organising a stall at the University of Leeds staff fair promoting the Humanist Chaplaincy service offered at the university.

We also launched a new fund to support the Norfolk Lecture – the creation of an annual public understanding of science lecture, which will be hosted by a local

group.

The first of which took place in November when Dr Terrence Kee presented a talk on “Did Life on Earth Originate on Earth?”

In February we were celebrating **Galileo Day** and in preparation for this, we released Galileo Day packs to local and student societies to help them plan events across the country.

In May the 4th annual **Secular Ball** was staged. The event was administered by us, on behalf of the freethinking groups of West Yorkshire. We have also been involved in a number of other events including supporting Leeds Reason Week, providing staff and resources.



# Organisation



## Partnerships

In June, we announced a partnership with Dailymotion, which will allow us leverage our library of lecture video material and bring it to the general public. More details of this will be announced in the coming weeks.

## Inclusivity

In August, we launched our inclusivity programme, which allows those who may be unable to attend our educational events, to apply for exemption from registration fees, allowing everyone access to education no matter what their background.

## Volunteers

We would like to say a big thank you everyone who has volunteered their time both in and out of the office over the past year. In particular Sonia, Doris and Ha for their admin work, Katie, James, Jason, Sarah, Kate, Norman and James for their work with HAG, David for his work with HLP, and Weili for doing the accounting.

We're always looking for new volunteers, so if you can spare some time for a worthy cause, please get in touch.



## Newsletter

Our quarterly newsletter, Engage, continues to publish in a new two-page format. Keeping it short and only releasing four issues a year means that we can still keep people up to date while maintaining our concentration on what is important – doing things!

# Trustees



**Chris Worfolk**

The Chair of the Chris Worfolk Foundation already has an extensive background working in the free thinking movement.

Founder of **Leeds Atheist Society**, the most active atheist student society in the country, he was re-elected as vice president in April. In the same month he was also elected onto the committee of the local humanist group, the **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire**.

Chris also founded **Leeds Skeptics**, the local Skeptics in the Pub groups, which he continues to lead. He has also served as a trustee of the **National Federation of Atheist, Humanist & Secular Student Societies**.



**Dr Gijsbert Stoet**

Gijsbert is a lecturer at the **University of Leeds**, working in the Institute of Psychological Sciences.

He is well respected throughout academia having previously worked in The Netherlands, Germany, the United States and the UK.



**Paul Irving**

Paul served for many years as chair of the **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire** and continues to serve on the committee of the organisation.

He is also active in campaigning for civil rights and to put an end to LGBTQ discrimination, work he continues through the foundation.



“Improving society; building on humanist principles.”  
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