



Chris Worfolk Foundation
Annual Report 2013

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Registered charity in England & Wales. 1137220.

Introduction



Chris Worfolk
Trustee

It has been an exciting year for the foundation. Of course, it is always an exciting year for the foundation. If we were not passionate about the causes we work on, and excited about the ways we were tackling them, we would probably be doing something wrong.

This year we have worked towards making the foundation more sustainable. This has meant focusing our efforts on what is important, and being willing to give up the projects that have not been as successful. This will put us on a firm financial footing for the future.

This has not distracted us from moving forward with our projects though. Our local groups have continued to gain ground, we have announced the Anxiety Leeds project, and we have more online resources available than

ever before. Norfolk Lectures has really begun to pick up steam in the past twelve months and I'm excited about where it could be this time next year.

It has been brilliant to see some of our projects really blossom into firmly established programmes. Leeds Skeptics smashed through its own records this year for attendance and the Humanist Action Group's 2012 Holiday Food Drive raised far more money than ever before.

As we look to the coming year, we are in a great position to really focus on some key projects and see them come into their own. By continuing to dedicate resources to the key initiatives that have proved successful, I hope we can build projects that will stand the test of time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris J. Worfolk".

Chris Worfolk
Trustee, Chris Worfolk Foundation



Activities



Top left: Holiday Food Drive delivery.
Above: Holiday Food Drive sorting.
Left: Holiday Food Drive donations.

Humanism

The **Humanist Action Group** continues its work to bring immediate relief to those living on the streets. This year, we are hoping to get more people than ever involved in our regular activities.

In December, HAG ran the third annual **Holiday Food Drive**. This smashed through all previous records, raising a total of £2,849.15 worth of donations for local homeless shelters.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out with this, including Cotswold and Go Outdoors for their generous donations.

In March, we published a report into how much you can earn begging on the street. The answer, contrary to what some people might have you believe, is very little indeed.

The Humanist Chaplaincy

Network has continued to offer advice via our guide to the practice of Humanist Chaplaincy written by Dr Gijsbert Stoet.

Education

We have seen solid growth in the traffic to our online lecture resource, **Worfolk Lectures**. The most popular talk this year has been Josh Hulks speaking on “how physics has shed light on the nature of time.”

We continue to publish our courses, **One Life, Perspective** and **Answers**. Our Perspective packs have proved particularly popular this year, with requests coming in from as far afield as India and the United States.

We also continue to promote our campaigns. **It's Only Water** aims to raise awareness of homoeopathy and **Pro Life Through Pro Choice** offers a

sensible and considered view on abortion rights.

This year we also launched **MensIssues.org.uk** to raise awareness of the many issues that men and boys face. These include higher suicide rates, shorter life expectancy, and discrimination in family rights.

Community

Leeds Skeptics has broken all previous records for attendance by staging some really high quality events that the group can be proud of.

In April, Dr Brooke Magnanti, known by her pen name Belle de Jour, achieved an attendance of 68 (69 including herself),



Above: Dr Brooke Magnanti at Leeds Skeptics. Below: Anxiety Leeds flyer. Right: John Sweeney, Humanist Community and MensIssues.org.uk.



with people sat on the floor and queueing out of the door because we couldn't fit everyone in the room. BBC Panorama reporter John Sweeney also proved popular.

The **Humanist Community of Leeds** has continued its evening socials as well as piloting a brunch event that brought together the various freethought groups in Leeds.

In July, Leeds Mind approved us to start a mental health self-help group, **Anxiety Leeds**. Funded by Leeds City Council, it will provide peer-led support to people living with anxiety.



Above: Header image for the new Anxiety Leeds support group. Below (left) Paul Hopwood presents a talk. Below (right) Brian Quinn presents a talk.



Events

The 2012 **Worfolk Lecture** was delivered by Paul Hopwood. His talk "You Know Less Than You Think" looked at cognitive psychology and what it tells us about human memory and awareness.

in need of stock photography for their freethinking group. Access is free as is the use of the images, to allow all groups to build great-looking, legal advertising material.



In February, we staged the **Galileo Day Lecture** at Leeds Skeptics. This year's speaker was Brian Quinn, on the topic "Superstition – The Odd Delusion." You can watch the talk again on **Worfolk Lectures**.

We also continue to operate the **Secular Portal Resource Library**, offering a treasure trove of documents, talks and other resources that groups can post and share with each other.



Resources

Atheist Stock continues to offer a world leading resource for people

We published an updated version of the Humanist Action Group guides to running your own local action group. These include one on running a feed the homeless programme and one on group organisation.

Organisation



Accounts

Our accounts were once again prepared by the West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service this year. We would like to thank them for all the help and support they have provided.

A thank you

This year, Gijsbert moved to Glasgow, and, as a result, stepped down from the Board of Trustees. We would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past few years and wish him all the best.

Volunteers

As ever, we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year such a success. Nobody works for the organisation; everyone is a volunteer and without them, we could not do anything!

In particular thanks to James for his work at Leeds Skeptics and fundraising, and Katie, Aiden, Sarann and Moz for helping with the Humanist Action Group.



Finances

Year	Income	Spending
2012/2013	£5,761	£3,070
2011/2012	£5,240	£3,717

Charitable activities represent 93.7% of our spending during the 2012/2013 financial year.

Trustees



Chris Worfolk

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

He is the founder of **Leeds Atheist Society** and **Leeds Skeptics**, as well as serving as the treasurer on the committee of the local humanist group, the **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire**. He is also president of **Leeds City Toastmasters**.

He has also served as a trustee of the **National Federation of Atheist, Humanist & Secular Student Societies**.



Elina Leiniö

The 2012/2013 year was Elina's first full year as a trustee of the organisation.

Having grown up in Finland, Elina brings a range of new experience and perspective to the organisation, speaking fluent English, Finnish and Swedish. She earned her undergraduate degree at the **University of Turku** in English & Theology.



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 that he continues through the foundation.

Volunteering

We are always looking for volunteers to get involved with the organisation and projects. If you want to make your local community a better place, get in touch and find out what we have to offer!

“Improving society; building on humanist principles.”
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