



Engage

Newsletter of the Chris Worfolk Foundation

January 2011

Editorial



“Less talk, more action” has often been described as the motto for CWF so we’ve halved the size of our newsletter. It’s now purely focused on what we’ve done over the past three months and what we’ll be doing in the next three.

I would like to use the short space I have to thank everyone who has supported our work over the past few months, particularly all those who gave generously both with their time and money.

Chris Worfolk

The 2010 Worfolk Lecture



November saw the first annual Worfolk Lecture take place at the University of Leeds. Dr Terrence Kee presented a talk on “The Origins of Life on Earth”, discussing the possibilities that life may have travelled to Earth from another planet by travelling inside a meteor. Much discussion was provoked with almost an hour of questions and answers taking place after the talk.

Earlier this year, we established a new fund to facilitate an annual lecture to support public understanding of science. Each year we will make a grant available

to a local group, which wishes to host the lecture.

Dr Kee delivered a fascinating talk, discussing just how resilient and hardy some bacteria are – some can survive extreme cold (such as space), some can survive extreme heat (such as entry into an atmosphere), some can take being crushed, some can survive exposure to high levels of radiation – it’s very, very hard to kill some bacteria! it is therefore conceivable that some may have traveled through space in meteors before making this planet their home.

Perspective launches new Leader’s Guide



As part of Inter Faith Week 2010, we launched our “Inter Faith Action Packs” with the support of the Inter Faith Youth Trust.

These contained the copy of the new Perspective Leader’s Guide, a 24-page booklet that offers practical advice on how to stage a version of the course at your local group.

Societies can request a free pack from

the website. Chris commented, “tackling controversial topics head on is the only way to confront misconceptions and promote meaningful dialog.”

We will also be launching a citywide version of the Perspective course in Leeds next month, which will be targeted at non-student members of the general public. More information on this can be found in the event listings on page two.

Upcoming Events

On Thursday 10 March, CWF trustee Gijsbert will be speaking at the Humanist Society of West Yorkshire on the subject of Humanist Chaplains.

In February, Chris will be speaking at Leeds Atheist Society on the subject of "A History of Atheist Charity."

We will be sponsoring Leeds Atheist Society's Reason Week 2011 taking place from 7 March to 12 March.

Leeds citywide Perspective

Join us for the first Leeds citywide Perspective, open to the general public, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Wednesday 26 January
Wednesday 2 February
Wednesday 9 February
Wednesday 16 February
Wednesday 23 February
Wednesday 2 March
Wednesday 9 March
Wednesday 16 March

Humanist Community of Leeds

Sunday 9 January
Sunday 6 February
Sunday 6 March

Leeds Skeptics

Saturday 15 January
Saturday 19 February
Saturday 19 March

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News in brief

In **October**, Chris was speaking at many local groups including Durham University Humanist & Secularist Society, Leeds Atheist Society, the Humanist Society of West Yorkshire and Leeds Skeptics. Meanwhile Gijsbert was speaking at the One Life course on the topic of Human Needs.

At the foundation, Atheist Stock was pleased to announce that it now had over a thousand high quality images in its collection available to those who needed them.

In **November**, Chris was back in Durham, this time to speak at Durham Union alongside BHA vice president Professor Richard Norman as well as speaking at

a burqa debate at Leeds Atheist Society and speaking at Bradford Atheist & Humanist Society.

In **December**, the Humanist Community of Leeds moved to its new timeslot of 5:30pm on a Sunday evening.

We announced Perspective Citywide – a new version of Perspective running in Leeds from January aimed at the general public (see the events column for more details).

We launched the Humanist Library Project, a library archive that aims to amass a world standard collection of humanist and naturalist literature. More details in our next newsletter!

Humanist Action Group... in action!



anywhere in the country, matching you up with local volunteering opportunities.

In December, Leeds HAG launched the holiday food drive asking for donations for food parcels to be delivered to local homeless shelters. Volunteers spent the evening of Monday 13th collecting everything, boxing them up and delivering them to local shelters where they were warmly received.

In November, the new Humanist Action Group website launched aiming to get more people into volunteering. The site now allows you to sign up to volunteer

In total the group managed to produce 24 boxes of food – most of which had to be duct taped shut because of how full they were!

Intimate Details debuts



Intimate Details is an alternative to UCCF's Pure course which has previously lead Christian Unions into trouble because it openly speaks against homosexuality. As such, some have cheekily nicknamed "Impure."

As with our other courses, the answers come not from scripture but from the answers that the group themselves come up with. A Leader's Guide is currently under development to allow other groups around the country to run the course in their area.

In December, our brand new course – Intimate Details – was run for the first time at the University of Leeds, hosted by Leeds Atheist Society. Topics covered included dating, relationships, sex, sexuality, taboos and sex in the media.

There is a short video clip on our YouTube channel.