



Engage

Newsletter of the Chris Worfolk Foundation

April 2011

Editorial



Humanist Community originally started out as a yearlong pilot project, scheduled to finish in March. However, when we tried to bring the project to an end, people spoke out - they wanted HCoL to keep going! And so it shall, we're pleased to announce a new lease of life for the project.

This feedback is what really makes it all worth it for us – so thank you to those who made your voices heard about how much you enjoyed the events.

Chris Worfolk

Perspective Citywide



Last year we had the chance make Perspective accessible to groups right across the country thanks to the support of the Inter Faith Youth Trust. This has caught on in a big way and reached right across the globe – we recently posted a pack to Auckland, New Zealand!

Now, thanks to the Community Development Foundation, we've been able to take Perspective to a whole new audience in the form of Perspective Citywide, a version of the cause targeted at the general public here in Leeds.

Throughout the course we managed to bring in speakers on Quakers, Hinduism, Scientology, Christianity, Humanism, Paganism, Zoroastrian and Judaism – three of which had never been covered by a Perspective course before so was a world first and really helped us expand people's knowledge on these world religions.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our speakers who gave up their time to talk to our audience and all the volunteers who helped out over the project too!

Humanist Library of Leeds



In December, we announced the Humanist Library Project. This was a plan to create the Humanist Library of Leeds, a shining beacon of knowledge in the North of England, which will eventually become a world-class centre for researching Humanism.

All projects start with simple first steps and having steadily been building a collection of books in our office we took the first step in March by assembling the

first bookcase for the library.

The collection will cover a variety of topics including philosophy, theology, politics, history and natural science, all of which will be made available to researchers and eventually, the public in general. Our collection is already building with a collection that spans four centuries – our oldest book was published in 1788!

Upcoming Events

On Friday 31 May, we will be hosting the 4th annual Secular Ball (formally the End of Year Ball) as a fundraising dinner. The evening will include a three-course meal, live entertainment and VIP entry to the after party. Tickets are available at £30 each from www.secularball.org.

Chris will be speaking to York University Atheist & Agnostic Society on Thursday 5 May and will also be speaking to Sheffield Skeptics in the Pub in October.

Humanist Community of Leeds

HCoL has an all new venue - please see the website for full details.

Sunday 3 April
Sunday 1 May
Sunday 5 June

Leeds Skeptics

Skeptics in the Pub is currently re-working it's format and venue so make sure you're on the mailing list or checking the website for the latest dates and times. The provisional dates are below.

Saturday 16 April
Saturday 21 May
Saturday 25 June

Useful Info

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Chris Worfolk Foundation is registered charity in England and Wales. 1137220.

News in brief

It was a very quiet month in **January** as we prepared for the launch of Perspective Citywide. We also spent some time processing the footage from Enquiry 2010 – more news on that in the coming months.

The Humanist Library expanded with its first book from the 18th century.

February was much busier with the launch of Perspective Citywide. We also welcomed Doris to our team of volunteers. She is currently reviewing and improving the material for the One Life course.

Our trustees were kept busy too – Chris spoke to Leeds Atheist Society about the

history of atheists in charity work while Gijsbert was over at Hull & East Riding Humanists speaking about Humanist Chaplains.

It was a busy month in **March** as well – Chris spoke to Hull & East Riding Humanists while Gijsbert spoke at Leeds Reason Week as well as speaking at North Yorkshire Humanists and the Humanist Society of West Yorkshire.

We were also down at the National Federation of Atheist, Humanist & Secular Student Society's annual convention that featured speakers including Robin Ince, Johann Hari and Professor A. C. Grayling.

Reason Week 2011



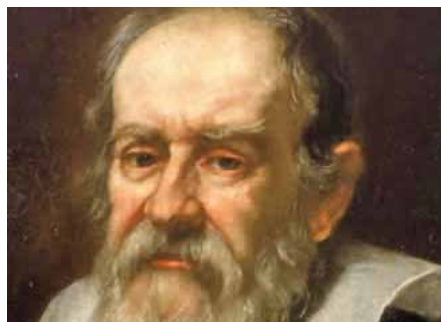
In March, Leeds saw its fifth annual Reason Week take place. Hosted by Leeds Atheist Society it is a week of raising awareness on science and critical

thinking, encouraging people to put their beliefs under the microscope.

Highlights included Dr Antony Lempert, coordinator of the Secular Medical Forum discuss the problems with religion interfering with medicine and a panel discussion between Quakers, Sea of Faith and Humanists.

During the week the volunteers talk to over a thousand different people, providing literature, debate and events throughout the week – and we were more than happy to help by providing resources and volunteers.

Galileo Day 2011



February 15th saw the third annual celebration of Galileo Day – a campaign now run by the CWF, which aims to promote Galileo Day as a secular holiday celebrating the birth of Galileo Galilei, widely regarded as the father of modern

science.

As part of this we published special "Galileo Day packs" which explained to local groups what Galileo Day was and how they could involve their group in the celebrations, be it be holding a talk, star gazing event or a traditional Galileo Day Feast – or any other celebration for that matter!

In Leeds, Michael Braham delivered the first annual Galileo Day Lecture before the crowd headed down for a feast of epic proportions at the all you can eat restaurant Red Hot World Buffet.