



Engage

Newsletter of the Chris Worfolk Foundation

October 2011

Editorial



We've just gone through Freshers' Week and it has been great to see Leeds Atheist Society has received such a warm reception and indeed offered such a warm reception, to new students.

In a similar vein, the HCoL has continued to go from strength to strength with new members arriving every month and Leeds Skeptics is now so busy that for the second month in a row, I found myself sitting on the floor. I'm more than happy to, given what that means!

Chris Worfolk

Sunrise Conference 2011



In September, we ran the second annual Sunrise Conference. It was held for the first time last year when we ran it at the University of Leeds over the first weekend in September and were joined by delegates from around the country.

For this year's event, we decided to concentrate events into one single day and to allow people to attend, no matter where they are or how far they can travel, we ran the conference virtually to allow people to stream it over the internet, as well as attend in person.

Speakers including CWF Director of Education Michael Burgess, Paul Thomas from Leeds Salon and Lucy Adams from Slutwalk Leeds. The day was hosted by CWF chair Chris Worfolk who also presented a talk on the Humanist Action Group of Leeds and their social action volunteering activities.

For those who missed the conference – don't worry! The talks will be available to watch again on the website from early next year. We're also already working on next year's event, so stay tuned for details.

Worfolk Lectures



In August, we launched Worfolk Lectures – an online archive of educational talks, freely available to the world. All of our videos are recorded in full high definition and so are suitable for public broadcast, as well as watching on your own.

We've been recording talks since we staged the Enquiry 2010 Conference last year and since then have built up an extensive archive of material which we're finally able to bring to the public.

Last newsletter, we announced we now have partnership with Daily Motion – completing the final piece of the puzzle.

We have talks from Professor Chris French, Professor A. C. Grayling, Dr Antony Lempert, Dr Paul Dean and many other speakers. We're currently publishing a new talk every Friday and you can get all the latest updates on our Twitter feed and on our Facebook page.

Upcoming Events

This year's annual Norfolk Lecture, our headline public understanding of science event, will take place on Tuesday 18 October at the University of Leeds.

It will be hosted by Leeds Atheist Society and presented by Professor David Jenkins from the University of York, with a talk entitled "From Rutherford to the Large Hadron Collider."

Chris will also be talking on the topic of The Singularity at Sheffield Skeptics in the Pub on Monday 17 October.

Humanist Community of Leeds

HCoL are now meeting at Stick or Twist in the city centre.

Sunday 2 October
Sunday 6 November
Sunday 4 December

Leeds Skeptics

Stay tuned to leedsskeptics.org for latest venue information. Dr Andrew Rae will be speaking in October.

Saturday 15 October
Saturday 19 November
Saturday 17 December

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News in brief

In **July**, Leeds Skeptics in the Pub welcomed Dr Jim Wild who presented a talk on "Weathering solar storms" while the Humanist Community of Leeds found itself in the middle of a musical Hindu parade – which was most entertaining.

Meanwhile, CWF chair Chris was down at Nottingham Skeptics in the Pub where he presented a talk on The Singularity.

In **August**, we partied at Leeds Pride before turning up to the Humanist Community meeting that evening, still adorned in our LGBT flags. We also launched the Atheist Stock API.

Later in the month, we launched Norfolk Lectures and announced Sunrise 2011

and Leeds Skeptics in the Pub welcomed Simon Wellings talking on "everything you wanted to know about the credit crunch but were too afraid to ask."

In **September**, we held Sunrise Conference 2011 and, a week later than normal, the Humanist Community of Leeds saw a fantastic turn out in which will probably be our last chance to sit outside this summer.

At Leeds Skeptics in the Pub, we welcomed Arthur Chappell who presented a talk entitled "Brainwashed! A Cult Survivor's Tale", discussing the four and a half years he spent in a religious cult, before going on to become chair of Greater Manchester Humanists.

Leeds Transhumanists



In June, we announced that we were going to be supporting a new local group in Leeds which focused around Transhumanism and surrounding

concepts such as The Singularity, futurism and artificial intelligence.

The idea behind the group is to bring together people from across Leeds which are interested in learning, discussing and furthering the course of Transhumanism to build a better society for tomorrow.

The group will be holding it's first meeting later this month and you can find out more details about the meeting by checking our presence on Meetup.com, search "Leeds Transhumanists", or by following us on Twitter.

Atheist Stock development



After an extensive period of testing to make sure everything was working on the site, Atheist Stock transitioned from its beta status. The site is now a huge archive of thousands of images, all available for free thinking groups to

download and use, for free.

We've continued to evolve the resource since it was launched in March 2010 and now has media from many different contributors and a fantastic selection of media both from events, and increasingly other material as well.

In August, we also launched the Atheist Stock API, allowing partners to integrate directly with our services to provide our resource materials to their own membership without having to leave their website. For access to either service, please contact us via email.