

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Newsletter

Our monthly Newsletter contains a summary of the latest talk at Friends Meeting House, notes on forthcoming events, items of current interest and notes on future activities. More frequent updates are sent to those on our email list.

Education

We are active in promoting Humanist teaching in schools, in particular through developing Humanist teaching units for RE lessons in Manchester schools. In addition, members are available to give talks on Humanism in schools throughout Greater Manchester. There is currently Humanist representation on the Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education for Manchester, Stockport and Trafford, and we are seeking similar representation on the other Metropolitan Boroughs in Greater Manchester.

Introductory course

We have developed an introductory course - 'Exploring Humanism' - for public presentation over six weekly sessions. It can also be adapted to other formats. For details, including the dates of the next regular presentation, see our website or contact the Secretary:

Tel: 0161-430-3463

Email: secretary@gmh.humanist.org.uk

Social events

We hold a regular quarterly Sunday lunch and occasionally arrange other social events. From time to time we participate in events run by other Humanist groups.

WEBSITE

For additional and up-to-date information, or to join our email list, see our website: gmh.humanist.org.uk

FUTURE PLANS

Working more closely in support of local officiants providing Humanist ceremonies - created to meet the particular interests and circumstances of those involved - for baby namings, weddings and civil partnerships, and funerals.

Exploring possibilities for Humanist chaplaincy in hospitals, universities and prisons.

Regular 'get-to-know-you' meetings for new members and supporters.

Meetings in local areas such as Buxton, Bolton, Stockport and Warrington/Wigan.

Family-oriented activities.

Engaging with the community, including 'inter-faith' groups - speaking at meetings, stalls at events, etc.

WHY JOIN US?

If, like most British citizens, you have no religious affiliation, live a secular lifestyle, try to make sense of life and live well - and are reading this - you probably **are** a Humanist! Hearing our speakers and meeting our members will help you clarify and develop your ideas.

In the UK, religious organisations represent the opinions of a minority of the population, yet have privileged positions, for example bishops in the House of Lords and faith schools, where they are granted exemptions from equal opportunity legislation.

Religious organisations also have great influence, for example through programmes on radio and television and the religious element of many national and civic ceremonies.

To redress this imbalance, Humanist and secular groups campaign for the rights of the non-religious and seek to change the attitudes of policy makers. It is a growing movement. Your support will make an important contribution.

Greater Manchester Humanists

Furthering Humanism and working for a secular society

Affiliated to the
BRITISH HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION



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HOW TO JOIN US

Complete this application form and return it (with a cheque made out to Greater Manchester Humanists) to:

John Coss
GMH Secretary
1 St Aldates
Stockport SK6 3DU

Greater Manchester Humanists Membership Application

Name and title:

Address:
.....
.....

Post code:

Tel No:

Email:

(We prefer email communication. Your email address will not be disclosed to anyone except officers of GMH without your consent.)

Annual membership: Waged (£15)

Unwaged (£10)

(please tick as appropriate)

We welcome additional donations towards our campaigning and other activities. £.....

Join now to secure membership to 31 March 2011

We ask for a donation of £3 at meetings at Friends Meeting House (except at the first meeting attended) to cover the cost of the room and refreshments, and a contribution of £2 at The Waldorf (£1 for students in both cases).

Are you a BHA member? Yes/No

Are you an NSS member? Yes/No

WHO WE ARE

Greater Manchester Humanists were founded in 1992 (under a different name). We believe an earlier group was active from the 1950s until the mid-1970s.

We are affiliated to the British Humanist Association and the National Secular Society.

OUR CONCERNS

As Humanists, we are concerned with values and moral issues from a non-religious standpoint. Like many people in our largely secular society, we have done our best to work these out for ourselves, and are constantly re-assessing them in the light of changing circumstances.

We are also actively concerned to apply our values and to work towards the achievement of a more open, just and caring society.

WHAT WE THINK

There is no supernatural agency to whom we can turn for guidance, justice, comfort or support.

The solutions to human problems are in our own hands.

Human beings are the outcome of an evolutionary process that began millions of years ago.

Our moral values do not come from a supernatural authority but have evolved in the societies in which we live. We acquire them from the groups and society in which we grow up.

As far as we know this is the only life we will have.

We are responsible for our own conduct and should care for the welfare of others.

Children and young people should learn about religion and other belief systems, but should not be indoctrinated into a particular faith, especially in maintained schools.

We should educate young people to be open-minded and critically aware of contemporary issues.

We can and should try to make life happy and meaningful for ourselves and others.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Our Purpose is to further Humanism in Greater Manchester and surrounding areas. Our Objects are to:

- Support and represent Humanists;
- Foster public awareness and knowledge of Humanism;
- Foster and support education in Humanism, in particular through SACREs;
- Facilitate the provision of Humanist ceremonies;
- Campaign on issues of concern to Humanists;
- Advocate secularism;
- Provide opportunities for like-minded individuals to explore issues relevant to Humanism;
- Provide Humanist fellowship.

REGULAR MEETINGS IN MANCHESTER

We meet on the second Wednesday each month at Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, just behind the Central Library. Refreshments are provided from 7.00pm. Talks and discussions on ethical and social issues, generally with a visiting speaker, commence at 7.30pm. These meetings end around 9.15pm, and are followed by a social get-together at a nearby pub.

We also hold 'Exploring Humanism' meetings on the fourth Tuesday of most months, currently at The Waldorf in Gore Street (near Piccadilly), at 6.45pm for 7.00pm. These meetings also provide a forum for our campaigning group.

CAMPAIGNING

We campaign for the state to treat the religious and non-religious on an equal footing. We oppose state funded support for religious organisations - including faith schools which we consider divisive. And we seek the inclusion of secular philosophies and Humanism in religious education in schools, as recommended in the National Framework for Religious Education 2004.