



farnham
HUMANISTS

 A partner of
Humanists UK

AGENDA for AGM

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM**
- 2. Chair's Report**
- 3. Treasurer's report. Approval of accounts**
- 4. Set subscription rate for year**
- 5. Election of officers and committee**
- 6. Appointment of independent examiner for accounts**
- 7. Approval of affiliation Humanists UK, NSS, SCEHN**
- 8. AOB**

Chairman's Report to AGM 2023/24

- 8 talks at Daniel Hall and one at the HB
- Expanded social media presence
- A very successful public meeting at the Maltings
- A lovely garden party
- A great festive feast at the end of the year
- Continuing Hybrid Zoom for at least some talks, for those unable to attend in person.
- Our Survey as to suggested activities...
- Our move back to the Hop Blossom

Chairman's Report to AGM 2023/24

From our constitution, the aim of the group shall be to:

- promote Humanism,
- provide a community for the members
- act as a social organisation in the wider community.

FHs' Programme is well reported on our [website](#)

- 9 in-person speaker meetings, one by a FH member
- AGM
- 1 public meeting
- Regular pub gatherings on the first Monday of the month
- 1 walk
- 9 book club meetings

Meetings 2023-24

February	Compassion in World Farming AGM
March	Personality Testing
April	Covid and Conspiracy
May	Are you on a belief journey?
June	The trans revolution
July	International Development
August	Walk - Odiham and Greywell
September	Garden Party Brookwood Cemetery talk
October	Saying Goodbye
November	Litter Pick Public meeting - AI
December	Festive dinner
January	Hunter Gatherers in Farnham

Book Club

	Bookclub organised by Tricia Wallis
	<p>'Cloud Atlas' by David Mitchell (2004) 'Seize the Day' by Saul Bellow 'I'm Not Scared' by Niccolo Ammaniti 'Norwegian Wood' by Haruki Murakami 'The Phone Box at the Edge of the World' - Laura Imai Messina (2021) 'The Machine Stops' - E.M Forster 'The Stopping Places' by Damian Le Bas 'The Book of Form and Emptiness' (2022) by Ruth Ozeki 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall (2015)</p>

Website: www.farnham.humanist.org.uk



Jennie Johnson - Web manager

(also MeetUp, and Farnham magazine listings)

The Website is central to the group, and a historical record dating back to 2008

- A list of all previous lectures and other events
- A list of all annual debates
- Copies of Newsletters, Humanistically Speaking etc.
- Reports on activities in the Community including SACRE
- The work of volunteer Pastoral Support and Chaplaincy
- Speaking in local schools
- Details of Humanists UK public campaigns
- Our AGM Minutes

Committee and other contributions and activities 2023

Belinda Schwehr, Chair

Linda Montgomery, Treasurer

Keith Hayward, Quartermaster and photographer

John Cregan, **Vice-Chair**, What's On (until summer 2023)

David Savage, Pastoral Care, MP and council chaser

David Smith, [FH Facebook Group](#), and joke master

David Hepper, Committee IT, other IT support

Jennie Johnson, Web master, magazines, SACRE, Meetup

Mike Steed, Membership Secretary, Walkmaster

Oksana Grushkovska Social Events Sec

Sue Shaw, Library display

Tricia Wallis, Book Club

Sue Willson Focusing on Remembrance Day Ceremony

- 2 practising celebrants, Hannah Green (funerals) and Ed Hardy (lives in Liphook, offers weddings and funerals)
- 1 non-religious pastoral carer, David Savage
- 2 school speakers, Jennie Johnson and Alan Montgomery
- Multifaith / dialogue: Jennie member of Surrey SACRE; Alan Bracknell Forest SACRE
- Remembrance Wreath Laid
- Chasing Town Council and Parish Vicar re Remembrance
- Many members lobbying MPs on various issues
- Letters in the Herald
- Annual public meeting

Community Service and Outreach

What other activities or services can we offer within or to the community?

Members' Survey of opinions on likely support for possible meetings

HUMANISTS

18 people responded – thank you

“Farnham is a very churchy place, despite having a longstanding humanist group, and it is a huge pity that the group is so little known and so ineffective at publicising itself and a humanist approach to life.”

“I have noticed an anti-Tory bias and an intolerance towards right of centre opinions.”

Ideas for community support through FH

Hospital driving, School reading. Visiting elderly/disabled; Team up with current community action groups. The litter pick. A partnership with Phyllis Tuckwell or the Cobbett Society. Uni Freshers Fairs

Activities

Barn-dance – most repliers approved or Oksansa would be happy to put on a Ukrainian evening Awayday, e.g. Thomas Paine & Lewes, Darwin & Down House

Watch film together – H-UK/ Eco cinema style with meal

TED talks + facilitated discussion

Group visit to a Maltings film

Theatre trip with Humanist connection

Topics

Sustainability, personal carbon credits, the circular economy and climate; international humanism; the digital revolution, globalisation pros and cons, art history, music, literature, moral philosophy, ethics, psychology of religion, what is ‘woke’?; immigration; is it enough to be secular or does politics need humanism?

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Treasurer's Report

Linda

2023 Accounts

Financial transactions

Income: £675

Expenditure: £834.16

Income 2023

Subscriptions decreased : £362.50 (2022 £415)

'Coffee money' increased: £312.50 (2022: £214)

Thanks to all those who paid!

We are moving to a requirement to pay by way of standing order and the details will be on the tables at the Hop Blossom for every members' meeting.

We will no longer be charging for teas and coffees but members can buy drinks (there is no obligation) at the Hop Blossom.

Expenditure 2023

Rent, Daniel Hall: 8 meetings at £30 each

Public meeting: rent £93.60

Garden Party: rent £93

Affiliations: NSS £34

SCEHN £25

Humanists UK £0 - none requested

Advertising: Meetup £98.90 (2022 £141) - now sharing the cost with 1 other group

Expenditure 2023 (cont)

Refreshments for public meeting	£95.99
Speakers' expenses for various meetings	£134.09
Library exhibition	£15
Remembrance Wreath	£28.98
Deficit on Annual Dinner after donations	£39

Outcome

Cash loss in year **£159.16** (2022 **£54.60**)

£518.22 remains in bank, to be carried forward to
2024

Thanks to John Cregan – independent examiner
of the accounts.

AGENDA for AGM

4. **Set subscription rate for year - £15.00 – plus any voluntary donation at time of payment, or ‘in meeting’ OR a £3 per meeting fee for casual attenders - any representations or dissent, please?**

5. Election of officers and committee

Chair Belinda Schwehr’s term is expiring - Jennie Johnson and David Hepper are willing to Co-Chair and are **proposed** Other Nominations?

Treasurer Linda Montgomery nominated. Other Nominations?

Secretary role is shared: **Mike Steed** as membership secretary; Belinda is willing to be Agenda and Minutes secretary Any other nomination?

Vice-chair – vacated by Jennie but probably unnecessary to fill, given shared Chair

Jennie Johnson (web and event listings), David Hepper (web and other IT support), David Savage, Keith Hayward (Quartermaster), are happy to continue

David Smith (Facebook and Jokes) is standing down -

Other Nominations please? E.g.

Would anyone like to join the Committee without a particular portfolio - any other nominations? Does anyone feel able to monitor traffic on Facebook?

6. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts

7. Approval of affiliation to Humanists UK, NSS, SCEHN (South Central England Humanist Network)

We'd like approval please for the group continuing to pay for affiliation to all these organisations, costs being approx.

£75 (Humanists UK has not requested payment for several years)

£34 NSS

£25 SCEHN

8. AOB – David Savage on the views of election candidates on assisted dying