



Members Newsletter, February 2015
Edited by Margaret Godden

Living without religion

A British Humanist Association Partner and
affiliated to the National Secular Society

www.oxfordhumanists.org.uk

Oh dear! Darwin was wrong!!

Our Friday lecture last November was quite unlike the usual run.

OxHums member Max

Farrar gave an account of his visit to the so-called Creation Museum in Kentucky, USA. It is an impressive building and contains exhibits put together at great expense. Its purpose is to demonstrate the folly of Darwinism and the theory of natural selection. It does this in a series of tableaux which set out the 'true' history of man's 6000-year sojourn on earth. One exhibit, for instance, shows a prehistoric human family living alongside small, friendly dinosaurs. The fact that they are all modern high-tech models rather than archaeological remains does not, apparently, prevent visitors from taking this rubbish seriously.

Max later visited a similar 'museum' in Texas and will be giving another talk based on that. For a hilarious but deeply shocking experience it is not to be missed.



This model shows (small) dinosaurs entering the Ark along with modern mammals

Working with the Faiths

Last November we were invited to take part in a multi-faith meeting to show unity in the face of the horrific ISIS wave of terror. We accepted, several of us attended and our Chair made a statement on behalf of Humanists.

More recently the same group has drafted a statement in advance of the Bullfinch Report on

the sexual exploitation of young girls in Oxford. We have been asked to sign this and have accepted subject to changes in the wording to allow for non-believers.

In principle your committee thinks we should be involved in such initiatives but would welcome comments from members who might not agree.

Wear your badge with pride



Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the latest device to help people realise they can be positive about not believing in god and that the Oxford Humanists are here to help.

The traditional Happy Humanist symbol comes in both Oxford blue on white and white on Oxford blue. We are sending a free badge to all our members with this newsletter.* If you would like more please contact John Webster who has organised this new venture.

Of course, if you are one of those people who prefer not to wear badges, there is no obligation to wear this one; and situations which would make the wearing of a cross inappropriate would apply equally to our badge.

* If there is no badge in this envelope it is because we think you have one already.

Please let John know if that is not so.

Helping Others

Over the ... years of our existence, Oxford Humanists have built up a useful surplus in the bank. So we are able to support requests for financial help from a wide variety of campaigns.

This year we have sent:

- a monthly £10 standing order to Uganda Humanist Schools Trust
- £100 to One Law for All, Maryam Namazie's campaign for women's rights
- £80 to the Oxford Council of Faiths' campaign against Islamist extremism
- £60 to the Leicester Secular Society towards their appeal for the restoration of their historical hall
- £100 to the BHA's appeal for funding for their Education Officer's post

Celebrating the Winter Solstice

For the second time we celebrated the 'Christmas' season with a Winter Solstice party at Friends House, designed for all the family. It was a suitably jolly occasion with plenty of fun - and food.

The picture shows the OxHums stall at another 'Christmas' event, the well-attended annual Green Fair in Oxford Town Hall



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Visit to Bletchley Park

Our next coach trip will be to Bletchley Park, scene of wartime code-breaking, and particularly Alan Turing's success with the German Enigma code (as depicted in the award-winning film *The Imitation Game*)



Alan Turing

We shall see

Lunch is included in the charge of £....., children under 16 £...

Saturday, May, departing from Oxford at ... am and returning at around ...

Non-members are welcome to join us.

To book a place please contact John Webster,

Book Club

Our newly formed Book Club is meeting regularly on the first Monday in the month at 7.0 pm. Our group of six would welcome two or three new members. So far we have read a variety of novels - George Eliot, Howard Jacobsen and Ian McEwan - with varying reactions. If you are interested please contact Margaret Godden.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact Margaret.