



# Newsletter

of the Liberal Democrat Humanist & Secularist Group

July 2007

**HUMANIST & SECULAR  
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

## Brighton Beckons!

Our Fringe at Conference:

### Is Atheism the New Religion?

Day: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Glyndebourne 2,  
in the Holiday Inn

Speaker: Keith Porteous Wood,

Executive Director of the National Secular Society



● Keith Porteous Wood  
(left) out campaigning.

### Our AGM

Day: Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September

Time: 2:30 pm

Place: Walnut Suite,  
Quality Hotel, Brighton

N.B. This will *not* appear in the Conference Directory (to find out why ... come to the AGM!)

See Page 2 for the formal calling notice.

The topic of our fringe meeting at Brighton will be "Is Atheism the New Religion?" and the main speaker will be Keith Porteous Wood, Executive Director of the National Secular Society.

The Group is holding its AGM on the Sunday afternoon.

We will also be having a stand in the exhibition. If you can spare an hour to staff it then please email [rchurch1@btconnect.com](mailto:rchurch1@btconnect.com)

**Campaigning for Humanist &  
Secular views within the Lib Dems**

# Committee for 2006-07

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**Vice Chair: Cllr. Vera Head**

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**Treasurer: Peter Dunphy**

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## AGM Calling Notice

This is the formal calling notice, required by our Constitution, of the Annual General Meeting of the Liberal Democrat Humanist and Secularist Group.

The AGM will take place at 14:30 on **Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September** in the Walnut Suite of the **Quality Hotel, Brighton**, just round the corner from the main Conference Centre.

The business of the meeting will include:

Apologies for absence.

- Minutes of the 2006 AGM.
- Reports from the current Executive Committee.
- Consideration for approval of the annual accounts for the year ending 31 December 2006, together with the determination of the annual subscription for the coming year.
- Nominations for the Executive Committee.
- Discussion of the activities of the Group.

Nominations for the Executive Committee for 2007-08 will close at the end of the formal business of the AGM. In the case of contested elections a postal ballot will be held of all Group members to take place within 6 weeks of the date of the AGM. Nominations are sort for the post of: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and for three

Committee Members without portfolio. (In addition The Executive Committee has power to co-opt three additional members.)



## BHA Local Development Project

The British Humanist Association recently received funding from the Community Development Foundation to set up a project involving humanists at grassroots level, and has now appointed a Local Development Officer, Pepper Harow.

The Local Development Project has the following aims:

- to ensure that local authorities understand that they cannot discriminate between religious and non-religious beliefs
- to ensure that all equality networks recognise the benefits of working with the whole of the 'religion or belief' equality strand, and not just with religious groups
- to ensure that the relevant community forums and networks include people who can represent the interests of people with non-religious beliefs.

The project will be taken forward in five main stages:

1. **Publicity and Recruitment** – At this stage the BHA will recruit individuals who are willing to work constructively with local forums and committees, for example, groups which meet to discuss local issues regarding religion and belief
2. **Contact Local Authorities and Local Forums and Committees** – The BHA will contact all local authorities and some religion and belief organisations (and equality networks that include religious groups) and provide them with materials explaining how and why they should work with Humanists and non religious people
3. **Training** – Training the volunteers the BHA have recruited about issues relating to religion and belief and local forums and committees
4. **Network** – At this point they will have a network of trained individuals ready to represent Humanists and non religious people at a local level. These people will then join local religion and belief committees and relevant community forums.
5. **Sustainability** – The project will formally run until May 2008 but should continue after that. The final stage is therefore setting up systems which will sustain the network into the future

If you wish to get in touch with the Local Development Officer, Pepper Harow, at the BHA then email:

[local@humanism.org.uk](mailto:local@humanism.org.uk)

