

Suffolk Humanists Monthly Bulletin

Next meeting - Tuesday 14th May

"Uganda Humanist Schools Trust"

by

Steve Hurd (Chair of the Trust)



UHST helps schools in Uganda working to offer liberal, humanist education to needy children. Founded by Ugandan Humanists and run as charities, the schools are inclusive and do not discriminate on grounds of religion, social or ethnic background.

UHST currently supports three schools: Isaac Newton High School, Katera, Masaka; Mustard Seed School, Busota, Kamule; and, Kasese Humanist Primary School.

The Trust's Chair, Steve Hurd will talk about the challenges of promoting a humanist ethos in schools in a highly religious country.

We are especially keen to have a good audience for this event.. So please do your best to come along.

The meeting will be on May 14th at 7.30 pm at the Thomas Wolsey, 9-13 Peters Street, Ipswich, IP1 1 XF

April Meeting on "Cosmic Evolution"

In an excellent and wide ranging talk full of stunning images Mike Whybray not only took us through the evolution of the universe but delved into the physical processes - from quantum physics to supernovae - that created the elements that led to planets and life itself. Moving from there he explored and speculated upon some of the greatest mysteries that remain. Not least of these is the problem of 'dark matter', a hypothetical form of matter that is thought to form about 85% of the matter content of the universe but which is effectively invisible,

and 'dark energy' - which appears to be causing the expansion of the universe to accelerate in an unexpected way. Needless to say there were lots of questions throughout and afterwards.

Religion and the Beeb?

According to the television commissioning editor responsible for religious output the BBC is poised to place more religious characters in EastEnders and primetime drama series.

Other moves include plans for religious topics to be included in travel shows and cooking formats as the corporation seeks to make its faith-based programming more accessible to mainstream audiences.

This has been highlighted as part of a drive (as *The Times* put it) to present belief in a more “subtle and pleasurable” way.

I can't help wondering if "Fleabag" was part of this plan?

Summer Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be published in June. If you have something you would like to contribute please send to: shands.editor@gmail.com

Future meetings:

14th May: Uganda Humanist Schools Trust talk
25th May: Monthly lunch (Woodbridge Duke of York 12:00 noon)

Conference Time

In May and June the National Secular Society and Humanists UK are holding their annual events.

Both have a very impressive line up of speakers.

On 18th May, the theme of Secularism 2019 is "Reclaiming Religious Freedom"

Speakers include:

Rachel Laser CEO, Americans United For Separation Of Church And State (Keynote speaker)
Nick Cohen, Journalist, author and political commentator
Dr Joyce D'Silva, Ambassador Emeritus and former Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming
Brian Earp, The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics
Sara Khan, Lead Commissioner for Countering Extremism
Pragna Patel, Southall Black Sisters and Women Against Fundamentalism

Location: The Tower Hotel in London, St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1LD

Tickets: Members: £25 | Non-members: £50 | Students: £10

For details see

<https://www.secularism.org.uk/secularism-2019.html>

From Friday 21 June 2019 to Sunday 23 June 2019, Humanists UK Convention

Speakers include:

Alice Roberts, Paleontologist
Ed Byrne, Comedian
Adam Rutherford, Geneticist
Joan Bakewell, Journalist and Labour peer
Andrew Moffat, Author of No Outsiders programme
Christina Patterson, Writer and broadcaster
John Curtice, President of the British Polling Council
Sanchita Hosali, Director of the British Institute of Human Rights

Location: Athena, Queen Street, Leicester, LE1 1QD

Tickets: £99, students: £69

<https://humanism.org.uk/events/convention2019/>

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