



# **Chris Worfolk Foundation**

## **Annual Report 2010**

# Introduction



**Chris Worfolk**  
Trustee

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first annual report of the Chris Worfolk Foundation. In some ways it seems only yesterday that we first set out the plans for the foundation and yet when looking back on what we have achieved already, it seems a lifetime ago.

I'm extremely proud of the projects that we have already launched – Enquiry Conference, Humanist Community and our courses' leader's packs. These are just some of the projects that we got underway within our first twelve months and they have provided us with an excellent base to move forward within the coming year.

Similarly, I am very excited about the year ahead as we have many great projects currently under development. Examples of these projects include, the

Sunrise Conference and Humanist Chaplaincy Network. I am sure that we will truly have made 2010 the year of the Chris Worfolk Foundation, as I previously set out to in the open letter published on my blog at the beginning of this year.

The launch of our office last month was an important step forward for us, showing that the organisation was not merely an idea or a loosely linked series of projects but a serious group that was determined to make a difference.

One of the core values that I have always aimed to instil in the foundation is not to just have projects or strategies which exist on paper or in people's minds but to set ourselves on achieving a goal and making sure it happens. We're an organisation that moves like a juggernaut, fires on all cylinders and believes that the sky is the limit. I hope you can keep up.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Worfolk  
Trustee, Chris Worfolk Foundation



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# Activities



## Education

Having made a big impact in Leeds with the **One Life** and **Perspective** courses, leadership packs are now available for free thinking groups around the country to run the courses for themselves.

A leadership pack is currently being developed for the **Answers** course which has run for the second year in a row, taking place in May at the University of Leeds.

We are also planning to develop our new **Intimate Details** course, which is an answer to UCCF's Pure course. Pure is taught on campuses across the UK despite it openly teaching against homosexuality. Intimate Details will provide an alternative for those who want to discuss the real issues in the modern day – from every day issues like handling break ups to taboos such as incest and BDSM.



Top left: Islam speaker at Perspective. Above: Gijsbert speaks at One Life. Left: Scientology speaker at Perspective.

Education is taking place on a national level directly too – June saw our first **Enquiry Conference** which was targeted at atheists, humanists, sceptics and free thinkers. They were all brought together in Birmingham with an array of speakers including Professor A. C. Grayling, Professor Chris French, Dr Antony Lempert and many others.

September will see the first **Sunrise Conference**, an event designed to bring together the leaders and shapers of free thinking groups across the country in order to share ideas and build stronger groups. Dozens of guest speakers have already been confirmed for the event. Speakers including, founding National Federation of Atheist and Humanist and Secular Student Societies (AHS) president Norman Ralph will be present.

## Resources

Launched in April, **Atheist Stock** is the world's only stock photography website designed specifically for free thinking groups. Whether you need a photo of Conway Hall, Richard Dawkins or the One Life course in action you'll find it all, available for free, on Atheist Stock.

With the AHS still struggling to produce it's own materials, **Secular Portal**, the site responsible for the formation of the organisation is still the premiere destination for free thinking students in the UK to discuss and share knowledge. In July, we also launched the **Resource Library** containing hundreds of sample documents



Above: Our Guide for Groups booklet. Below: Michael Burgess presents a session of Answers. Right: Photos from the Enquiry 2010 Conference.



and talks for groups to use.

To make it easier for local groups to understand the range of resources we offer, we launched our **Guide for Groups** publication in February at the AHS national convention in Oxford. This explains the various resources and information that we provide.

In July, we announced the appointment of Michael Burgess as Director of Education. Michael will be starting with a complete review of the resources we provide to local groups so we can better identify where we can improve the materials we are providing.



Above: a meeting of the Humanist Community of Leeds. Below (left) HAG head onto the streets to feed the homeless. Below (right) graffiti removal.



## Humanism

In June, we appointed a new Coordinator of the **Humanist Action Group**, Katie Barr. Katie took over the management of coordinating the group's activities and began by expanding the range of activities undertaken, including our recently launched blood drive.

At the Enquiry 2010 Conference, Chris unveiled plans for the **Humanist Chaplaincy Network**. This is a network of volunteer chaplains across the UK brought together to share knowledge and resources. Full training will be provided to volunteers at the upcoming Sunrise Conference.

However, the biggest

development in our humanist activities this year was the launch of **Humanist Community** in February. This is a secular alternative to church that provides everything you would expect in terms of a great place to go on a Sunday morning and new people to meet – but strictly without any of the religion, preaching or dogma!

The concept has proved extremely popular and the group is already as well attended as the local humanist group. It has also attracted much local media attention with the group being covered by both the BBC and local newspapers.



# Organisation



## Links

In April, trustees Chris and Gijsbert sat down with both the British Humanist Association and the National Secular Society to introduce the organisation and to begin building bridges between us and the various other national organisations.

## Charitable Status

In July, the foundation's application for registered charity status was approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This is in addition to our HMR&C charity status and now makes us registered charity 1137220.

## Office

Last month, we launched the first foundation office based in Leeds city centre. The office will act as a hub for the organisation's activities, providing a place for volunteers to work.

We've also enjoyed a fantastic response from our advertisements to recruit volunteers, with scores of people applying to give their time to helping the foundation and its projects.

## Newsletter

In July, we published the first edition of our newsletter, Engage, which features four pages of news, event coverage and commentary. The newsletter allows supporters of the organisation to keep up to date with our activities quickly and easily. The next issue will be released in October.



# Trustees



## Chris Worfolk

The Chair of the Chris Worfolk Foundation already has an extensive background working in the free thinking movement.

Founder of **Leeds Atheist Society**, the most active atheist student society in the country, he was re-elected as vice president in April. In the same month he was also elected onto the committee of the local humanist group, the **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire**.

Chris also founded **Leeds Skeptics**, the local Skeptics in the Pub groups, which he continues to lead. He has also served as a trustee of the **National Federation of Atheist, Humanist & Secular Student Societies**.



## Dr Gijsbert Stoet

Gijsbert is a lecturer at the **University of Leeds**, working in the Institute of Psychological Studies.

He is well respected throughout academia having previously worked in The Netherlands, Germany, the United States and the UK.



## Paul Irving

Paul served for many years as chair of the **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire** and continues to serve on the committee of the organisation.

He is also active in campaigning for civil rights and to put an end to LGBT discrimination, work he continues through the foundation.



“Improving society; building on humanist principles.”  
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