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**wwwWOW!** from Ian Abbott - (Chair) LSH

Lancashire Secular Humanists new Website is almost ready to go 'Live'.

David [Brindle] and Helen [Cullen-Williams] have been working incredibly hard since February conceiving, designing and constructing a new look website for Lancashire Secular Humanists.

I can't begin to thank them enough for all the effort, time and trouble I know they have gone to over the past months ... *[I'll let you into a secret - they've done a fantastic job - and when you see it I'm sure you'll agree with me when I say "It has all been worthwhile"]*. The new site - along with our 'Facebook' - 'Twitter' & 'You Tube' presence will give us a much higher Profile and will allow untold numbers of other people to find us.

The site is due to go 'Live' next month [June] but David & Helen will be giving us a sneak-preview at the beginning of our next meeting [Wed 19<sup>th</sup> May] ... See page 4 for more details of this meeting.

The new [www.lancshumanism.org.uk](http://www.lancshumanism.org.uk) replaces [the currently being used] [www.lancashiresecularhumanists.co.uk](http://www.lancashiresecularhumanists.co.uk) however, the old site will continue to run until the end of it paid-for life to serve as a way-marker redirecting visitors to the new web-address.

And here I must acknowledge the work Peter [Angus] did in setting up and maintaining the original site. He was the only one of us early LSH-ers who had even the remotest idea about how to go about tackling that job and the web-presence he has provide for the group over the past two years has been invaluable in bringing our activities to a much wider audience. His site has had over 7,000 'hits' so far - indicating just just how many times it has been visited.

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#### Lytham St Annes Express - Again!

This once-reluctant-to-publish-us newspaper has yet again featured an article from LSH ... In the Thursday 1st April issue.

The piece published was the 'Potholing' article (which appeared in last month's LSH Newsletter) and was printed in its entirety.

What's more, this time our submission replaced 'Wayside Pulpit' - a regular weekly column in The Lytham St Annes Express which [until now] was always exclusively reserved for any local church leaders wanting to express their views on society from a distinctly faith perspective.

We're still a very long way from being published on demand [as I know some Humanist groups are) - but it's a big step in the right direction.

If any LSH-folk who are local to Lytham St Annes would like to submit some thoughts of their own - with a distinctive secular / humanist slant; please let us have them and we'll forward them on.

Why not send something to 'your' local press?

#### Preston.fm. - Again [and again]!

Those nice people at Chat City - Preston Community Radio Station Preston.fm's daily breakfast show [08.00 - 10.00] - invited LSH back once again for another chat about humanism - humanist values and a humanist's take on some of the current issues in the news today.

On this occasion we talked about recent and previous LSH meetings so issues such as Dignity in Dying - Prisons - Faith Schools and Criminalizing Drug Use were touched on; as well as a detailed explanation of our upcoming 'Outreach Event' taking place on The Flag Market in Preston and in Preston Town Hall on 23rd & 24th June [respectively].

Anybody in & around Preston can tune in [on 103.2fm] or listen on-line at [www.preston.fm/player/index\\_itsnw.htm](http://www.preston.fm/player/index_itsnw.htm)

Our particular interview is being broadcast between 08.30 - 09.10 Monday 3rd May 2010.

**Also:** Brian Ashman at Preston.fm is putting together a series of Thought-For-The-Day [type] sound-bites and made sure he invited LSH to submit a pilot as well - to sit alongside all the other usual suspects.

## Bloody Eyjafjallajokull

You try to plan for every contingency and think you've got it all covered. The speaker has been booked and has confirmed she is attending ... You've even got a back-up speaker lined up [you know] - just in case! The week leading up to the event you arrange for your speaker to be interviewed on BBC Radio Lancashire - to trail the event to a wider audience ... Then!

Your speaker sends you an e-mail – *'she might not be able to make the Sunday morning radio interview because she is due to fly home from Ibiza on Saturday but some volcano has erupted in Iceland and her plane is likely to be delayed'*.

Not a problem – contacted 'Dignity in Dying' - they put up another interviewee who can do the gig down the phone from London ... Sorted! [*Does a great interview btw!*]

Get another e-mail from your speaker *'...er – we've been told our flight is probably going to be delayed until Tuesday.'*

The event is on Wednesday so – ask DiD to cue the back-up speaker to be on stand-by.

Another e-mail from your speaker *'further delay - we've abandoned waiting for the flight - making our way to Barcelona and hiring a car to drive back to UK - definitely won't be back by Wednesday (sorry)'*

Contact DiD – we'll need the back-up ... (pause) ... *'er ... I'm afraid that speaker is stuck in Australia by the same Volcano. No idea when she'll be back!'*

A frantic search by DiD for another speaker who is willing and able to travel to Lancashire at short notice comes to naught.

DiD have no DVD's we could use as an alternative – best they can do is recommend some you-tube clips which are worth watching ... *so that's what we did!*

See – Page 3

## YMCA and WBC ... The Saga continues ...

The issues Ken Hayes raised with Wyre BC\* have still not been fully addressed.

He is still awaiting an answer to a second Freedom of Information Act request which should confirm, or otherwise, whether the council went ahead with a Cabinet recommendation to extend, by 15 years from 2011, the YMCA's contract to manage its sports and leisure centres.

What does seem clear however is that the vast majority of Wyre's 55 councillors don't seem to have been shaken or stirred by the submission we made to them, setting out the growing cost to public funds following the award of the YMCA contract in 2006.

Indeed one particular councillor, Roger Brookes went so far as to say "The religious / secular argument does not concern me."

\*A copy of the submission made to every single W.B. Councillor can be found on page 5

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## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



LSH's PAWs met again on Thursday 1st April - this time in The Anderton Arms, Preston ... Not our wisest decision it has to be said. Unfortunately the noise of other customers made it almost impossible for anyone with less than perfect hearing to participate in - or even follow - any of the discussions. [*Because of that we resolved to hold future meetings in the home of one or other of our participating members*].

Following on from last months exchanges regarding Faith Forums (and our participation in them) there was some concern that, far from advancing our ambitions for a more secular society, such participation could actually retard any potential for progress. ....(see page 3)

The meeting was updated on the [strenuous] efforts to obtain all the necessary details from Wyre Borough Council about their relationship with the YMCA - WBC seem to find it impossible to comply in a timely way with requests made under the FOI Act ..... (See this page & Page 5)

Details of plans for LSH to host the 'Course on Humanism' currently being offered by Greater Manchester Humanists were discussed ..... (See page 3)

Our current presence on Facebook was discussed - and the best way to increase the number of participants is simply to tell everyone you already communicate with to visit us there and sign up to become a fan.

Feedback was given about our complaints to Blackburn Council and Daisyfield Primary School about the introduction of strict Halal food to its pupils .....(See below)

The next Paws meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6th May ... Venue t.b.a. Visit the PAWs thread on our Webs-Forum for further details or contact Ian in the usual way.

### HALAL FOOD

#### Reply from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

'... Thank you for your letter ... Expressing concern that Daisyfield School is serving halal food to its pupils. In Blackburn with Darwen the decision on whether to procure and serve halal meat is taken by individual schools and not the council. Schools are responsible for all decisions appertaining to the provision of the school meals service.

The decision by Governing bodies and the school leadership team to serve halal meat is taken in response to the wishes of the parents and community, around which the school serves. In many instances schools serve both halal meat and non-halal meat, depending on the pupils present in the school and their religious beliefs.

Halal meat in schools is not something new; it has been used by many schools (Community, Voluntary Aided and Independent) in Local Authorities, across the country, for more than 20 years.

Yours Sincerely

Gladys Rhodes OBE

Strategic Director of Children's Services

**There has been no reply, or even acknowledgement, from Daisyfield Primary School!**

For details of the LSH response to this letter see page 3

## Faith Forums ... In or Out?

Despite any boasts about inclusivity; almost by definition secular voices on Faith Forums are massively outnumbered by those representing religious agendas consequently votes cast by the secular representatives on resolutions passed by the Faith Forum are inevitably defeated yet, those representatives are counted as being part of the consensus - implying that the humanists / secularists / atheists also think that [say] *'People of Faith should be consulted by local government'* ... when the truth of the matter is such a resolution would be the very antithesis of secularism.

What's more - the make up of these Forums imply the [wildly inaccurate] impression that they are somehow representative the views of the wider community!

Perhaps there is another way!

What if those various groups who represent non-religious views were able to establish a Secular Forum? Not in opposition to Faith Forums but in parallel with them.

So when a Faith Forum says its *raison d'être* is to offer advice to public bodies - from a faith perspective: the corresponding Secular Forum's *raison d'être* could also be to offer advice to the same public bodies - from a secular perspective.

This would not be a drive to establish [yet] another group but rather to organise a Secular Alliance of existing groups - establish common demoninators - and insist that public bodies give equal consideration to those views as they already do to the views of people of faith.

And the numbers of existing groups is quite impressive:

- British Humanist Association
- [Numerous Humanists Groups]
- National Secular Society
- [Numerous Secularists Groups]
- Skeptics
- Philosophy in Pubs
- Cafe Scientifique
- Sci-Bar
- Skeptics in the Pub
- Freethinkers
- Culture Pall
- [Various Student Athiest Associations].

Surely it cannot be beyond our not inconsiderable wit to co-operate in the same way that Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews, Buddhists (etc) have found to get their collective voice heard. - 'and listened to'!

Or are we back to herding cats?

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## No Dignity in Dying in Lancashire

[As explained on page 2] having naively failed to anticipate erupting volcanoes it transpired that we had no speaker for our long-awaited Dignity in Dying debate for April's meeting at Great Eccleston.

At very short notice we managed to download a DiD recommended you-tube Battle-of-Brains debate hosted by The Institute of Ideas 'Should Doctors Be Able to Help Us Die?'

Chaired by Helen Birtwistle, press officer for the Institute of Ideas, the four protagonists were: Raymond Tallis; Brendan O'Neill; Debbie Purdy and Kevin Yuill.

Raymond Tallis was Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester and, amongst many other things [far too many to list here] was Chair of the Royal College of Physicians Committee on Ethics in Medicine.

Brendan O'Neill is the editor of *spiked* and writes widely for publications on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also a feature-writer for the *Christian Science Monitor* in America and for the BBC in Britain.

Debbie Purdy became a Board member of Dignity in Dying following Diane Pretty's battle a decade ago, then gave up her place on the Board to pursue her own legal case to clarify the existing law. Debbie won this case in June 09 and awaits the DPP's interim policy on assisting suicide.

Kevin Yuill is senior lecturer in History & American Studies at Sunderland University. He's preparing a book outlining a humanist, libertarian case against assisted suicide. Previously, he has published articles in *Spiked*, *The Spectator*, and *The Tablet* and other journals on assisted suicide.

The hour-long debate - interspersed with questions and comments from the floor [some more 'pithy' than others] - provided a good launching pad for our own debate to continue.

Unfortunately the sound quality of the debate was not all it could have been and [at times] required a great deal of effort by some of our forty-odd strong audience to hear everything being discussed ... especially those at the back of the room or who already had impaired hearing. We can only apologise for that and hope the resulting discussions between ourselves went some way to re-dressing any points which might have been missed in the screened debate.

Anyone wanting to re-visit – the debate can do so here: [http://fora.tv/2009/11/01/Should\\_Doctors\\_Be\\_Able\\_to\\_Help\\_Us\\_Die#chapter\\_01](http://fora.tv/2009/11/01/Should_Doctors_Be_Able_to_Help_Us_Die#chapter_01)

## Introductory Course on Humanism – Lancashire Style

Greater Manchester Humanists are to be congratulated on developing a very successful course on humanism ... Their first presentation '*Exploring Humanism – an Introductory Course*' proved so popular that subsequent courses were quickly booked up – and now their course is being adopted by BHA to develop a nationwide model.

The Greater Manchester course comprises of six sessions: ■What do Humanists Believe? ■Where do Humanists get their Moral Values from? ■How do Humanists Handle Moral Dilemmas? ■What are the Historical Roots of Humanism? ■What is the Meaning and Purpose of Life for Humanists? ■What do Humanists do? (celebrations and campaigns) – and Review of Course (what does humanism offer the individual and society today?)

And now Robin & Anna, who run the GMH course have agreed to set up the first for Lancashire Secular Humanists ... with slight restructuring ... Instead of six [one-a-week] evening sessions ours will be three [longer] Saturday morning sessions [10 – 1] 25<sup>th</sup> September / 2<sup>nd</sup> October / 9<sup>th</sup> October - in the Committee Room, at Great Eccleston Village Centre.

**These courses must be limited to a maximum of 12 people - costs (to cover expenses) have yet to be finalised.**

## And Speaking of Meetings ...

May's meeting will be a dry-run for that part of our 'Outreach Event' scheduled for June that will take place on Thurs evening [24<sup>th</sup>] in Preston Town Hall.

### 'Humanism - Any Questions?'

This is yet another demonstration of the amount of hard work put in by LSH Members – this time Ken [Hayes], Julie [Humphrey] and Rachel [Coupe] to organise this particular event.

They [we] need as many of you who can to come along with as many awkward questions as you can think of to put to the panel. And offer your constructive criticisms and suggestions.

The more wrinkles we can iron out in this May meeting the smoother the event will go in June.

Hope to see you then!

### 'Outrage' over attack on Pope!

After weeks of revelations about the worldwide child abuse scandal over which the present Pope has presided, the *Telegraph* eventually found a story that would distract attention from the "media persecution" and cast the Vatican instead as victim.

The leaked Foreign Office memo that revealed the outcome of a "brainstorming" session about the Pope's planned visit to the UK in September made big news, and the *Telegraph* played it up for all it was worth. Its team of "religious affairs" people became increasingly hysterical about what was, in fact, a very minor incident.

I SAID I WAS  
SORRY! WHAT MORE  
DO YOU WANT?



atheistcartoons.com

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## Halal - LSH Reponse

Dear Ms Rhodes

Thank you for your reply of 24<sup>th</sup> March in response to my letter expressing our concern over halal food being served to the pupils of Daisyfield School.

As an ex-parent governor myself I support the desire to allow schools as much autonomy as possible; and fully understand the council's reticence to scrutinise the day to day running of each and every school unnecessarily.

However, there surely must be some lines over which schools under the control of a local authority must not cross – irrespective of any perceived infringements of that autonomy?

I am very aware that halal meat in schools is nothing new – what is new is the adherence to strict halal slaughter insisted on by the 'Hala Monitoring Committee': as opposed to the [currently] more usual 'Halal Food Authority'. (*Indeed, the fact that Daisyfield is the first non-Islamic school in Britain to conform to these stricter regulations is what made the story newsworthy.*)

It is this compliance in condoning the cruel and inhumane practice of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning which prompted our concern.

Such practices have been condemned by the governments own Farm Animal Welfare Council on the grounds that "*it causes very significant pain and distress*" and we had hoped that any council would seek clarification (and where necessary offer appropriate advice or guidance) whenever it is informed of planned, unnecessary and continuing cruelty to animals – regardless of the excuses given for that cruelty.

As I mentioned in my initial letter to you; there are countries across the world where Muslims find it perfectly acceptable for halal meat to be prepared from pre-stunned animals.

Also; it is not clear from your response that Daisyfield School offers non-halal meat to pupils whose parents are opposed to animal cruelty.

In the absence of any reply (or acknowledgement) from Daisyfield; I wonder if you would be able to ascertain those facts from the school's leadership team.

Yours sincerely

Ian Abbott

(Chair) Lancashire Secular Humanists

### Stimulating this reply

Dear Mr Abbott

Daisyfield school is self managing for the provision of school meals and the LA has no rights to intervene in that function. I am informed that the school has the support of the community it serves in taking this approach to halal meals and accreditation. I will pass on your views to the school.

I can confirm that the school has a non halal meal option available every day.

Please address any further queries direct to the school.

Regards

Harry Devonport

Director of Universal, Targeted & Learning Services

## YMCA

On 1st April all 55 Wyre Borough Councillors were sent a copy of the 'YMCA Dossier' under cover of the following message:

Dear Councillor [Named]

A member of Lancashire Secular Humanists, aided by the Freedom of Information Act, has discovered some facts you may not be aware of about Wyre Borough Council's leisure management contract with the Fylde Coast YMCA. Facts which I, as chairman of Lancashire Secular Humanists, feel should be drawn to your attention before the council commits the error of extending that contract for 15 years, as recommended by the Cabinet.

There may be only a few days for you and your fellow councillors to act before WBC compounds the mistakes highlighted in the attached dossier.

These details have already been forwarded to the BBC [news and politics] and we will be making the contents of the dossier available to other media in a few days time, after you have had an opportunity to consider the points raised.

Yours sincerely

Ian Abbott

(Chair) Lancashire Secular Humanists

### The Dossier

This submission to all Wyre Borough councillors argues that you should NOT extend, by 15 years from 2011, the council's leisure management contract with Fylde Coast YMCA, first signed on April 10, 2006.

The objections are multiple.

They include the contractor's poor financial performance, its failure to meet exaggerated expectations and its misleading Christian branding.

They also include the irrational length of the proposed extension in the face of the sports and leisure centres' future (recognised to be uncertain) and the prevailing national economic conditions.

The submission is made by a retired, council-taxpaying Wyre resident, who is a former user of Thornton Sports Centre. It is supported by fellow-atheist members of Lancashire Secular Humanists (a Wyre-based group affiliated to the British Humanist Association and National Secular Society).

Councillors, you have been asked to commit Wyre BC, for the duration of the next three national parliaments, to multi-million pound spending that allows the YMCA not only to continue to run the council's five sports and leisure centres...but also to call them its own.

When it is known that public spending will have to be deeply cut, after the General Election, isn't a loss-making, 15-year deal unwise? Even reckless?

And isn't it insensitive, even offensive, to be offering council taxpayers cut-price use of the centres - if they join the Young Men's Christian Association?

Still more so, if those taxpayers are older, perhaps female and possibly Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Baha'i, Jain - or even atheists?

Much of the information I put to you here has been requested from the council under the Freedom of Information Act since February 3, 2010.

### The Dossier - Continued

Some appears to have been given reluctantly (i.e. late).

5 For example, the contract, initially said to be "two inches thick" turns out to be 80 pages.

Some answers are still awaited.

April 10 is a deadline in this matter because Fylde Coast YMCA's current five-year contract ends on April 10, 2011, and requires 12 months notice of renewal (or perhaps conclusion and re-advertisement?).

Council officers have described the contract as "unique in the leisure industry". Clearly, it was not expected to be a loss-maker, but in the first four years, more than £1.3million was lost - never less than £333,000 annually - despite substantial increases in fees.

Unexpected? Well, the previous contractor produced a surplus of £182,000 in 2004/5. In light of that, your council wrote into the new contract the expectation of a surplus and agreed to share it 50/50 with the YMCA.

It also safeguarded against losses, requiring the YMCA to pay a penalty by sharing them, too, up to an agreed limit ... The agreement was that the YMCA's management fee - first set at £105,000 - would fall to £40,000 (but no further).

For each of the first three years of the contract, published accounts show substantial losses, resulting in the YMCA's maximum management fee being £42,440.

Personally, as a secular humanist, I would prefer not to have public services farmed out to religious organisations, but I see no compelling humanist rationale for objecting, generally, if the contract terms require the contractor to operate on an entirely secular, non-religious, non-discriminatory basis, as directly-employed public servants are obliged to do.

In this case, this is not so.

Apart from its cost to taxpayers, the most striking aspect of the council's contract with the YMCA is the freedom it gives the YMCA to promote its Christian brand.

Carelessly or deliberately, Wyre BC has allowed the YMCA to go as far as to call the borough's sports and leisure centres its own.

The contract says: "The YMCA shall ensure that all publicity and promotional material relating to the facilities reflect its Corporate identity and that of Wyre". It could have meant 50/50. In practice (with evident council approval) it massively promotes the YMCA. The centres are advertised (and the telephone answered) as "Thornton YMCA, Fleetwood YMCA, Poulton YMCA, Garstang YMCA". Recently, the council even allowed the YMCA to misleadingly claim credit for funding, or part-funding, them.

A January 2010 house-to-house leaflet drop advertised a "YMCA Sale", offering potential sports centre users £50 off annual membership. It said: "Your YMCA membership will not only save you money...but as we are a non-profit organisation, all your money will be reinvested back into your local community".

This is perverse. My FoI request has yielded the hard-to-believe fact that, in effect, Wyre council taxpayers have funded the YMCA's brand promotion to the tune of around £600,000 in 2009/10 (estimated operating deficit of £460,000, plus annual £140,000 capital spending commitment for major building repairs).

Continued ...►

Continued ...►

## The Dossier - Continued

The Fylde Coast YMCA's contract aim, as stated to the council, is to "enable young people and other members of the community to achieve their full physical, social cultural and spiritual potential".

No reference is made to non-Christians, whether committed to other faiths or none.

No reference is made, either, to national YMCA employment policies. Job advertisements require employees, elsewhere in Britain, to be "in sympathy with the Christian aims and purposes of the YMCA". Fylde Coast YMCA declares that its core values include "to be a caring community which overtly seeks to fulfil the Christian aims and purposes of the YMCA".

The council's previous leisure management contractor, CSL (Community Leisure Services), did the job for nine years, virtually anonymously - without general public awareness that the centres were not directly council-run.

Pre-2006, those responsible might conceivably have judged Fylde Coast YMCA's leisure management expertise (it manages other such facilities, as you are aware) to be a necessary boost. But financially, the council's confidence appears to have been misplaced.

The centres were soon performing well below expectations. Revenue in 2008/9 (£1.79 million) was virtually unchanged from 2004/5, despite increased fees and charges.

Despite that, in mid-2009, your Cabinet recommended extending the current YMCA contract for 15 years beyond 2011.

This would appear to offer Fylde Coast YMCA surprisingly long security of tenure at a time of great uncertainty. Uncertainty, not least, because the Cabinet has judged the sports and leisure centres to have only a further 5-10 year lifespan and has appointed consultants to develop a plan for the future.

In the light of all the above, one wonders why the council wishes to extend the existing contract, rather than start afresh by re-advertising■

## **A North West Humanist Groups Event?**

Representatives of groups from Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire & Leeds (- apology from Chester) met at a hotel in Standish on 18<sup>th</sup> April to discuss [further] the feasibility of developing a North-West Region Event ... the format such an event would take ... possible venues ... likely dates (etc).

There are many humanist group members who would enjoy gathering with other humanists to discuss issues, learn about developments and attend debates delivered by high profile speakers [who seem to be in prolific abundance in & around London but rare birds indeed up in the untamed wilderness of The North.]

To be fair - it is a situation which is slowly improving - for example The Shrewsbury Coalition are hosting 'What It Is To Be Human' on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010 ... One of the speakers will be the writer & broadcaster Kenan Malik, the others poet & historian Sally Roberts Jones, and Vishvapani, a writer and teacher on Buddhism.

But there are surely enough humanists in the region now to warrant other events - in other locations - with other significant speakers.

## 6 **Protests Planned for Pope Visit to UK**

Terry Sanderson, president of the National Secular Society, said: "The taxpayer in this country is going to be faced with a bill of some £20 million for the visit of the Pope. A visit in which he has already indicated he will attack equal rights and promote discrimination." – adding that a coalition of groups that have suffered because of the Pope's teachings will ensure that wherever he goes he will be aware that he has caused damage and hurt in the lives of real people. He said "We hope that the many people who are outraged at the Vatican's apparent indifference to the abuse of children by its priests will turn out to make their feelings clear."

"If the Catholic Church wishes its leader to come here, it should pay for the visit itself. I am sure many others feel the same resentment at funding the presence of someone who wishes to impose a reactionary agenda of social change on us."

The NSS plans include a festival of films that show the wrong-doings of the Vatican, among them: The Magdalene Sisters and The Boys of St Vincent's – a film about the cover-up of sexual abuse at a Catholic orphanage in Canada.

### [What Our Neighbours Friends Are Up To](#)

#### **Cumbria Humanists**

[www.cumbria-humanists.org.uk](http://www.cumbria-humanists.org.uk)

Wed 19 May: **MEETING CANCELLED** because of conflict with a number of members' 'unforeseen circumstances'.

#### **Isle of Man Freethinkers**

[www.iomfreethinkers.co.uk](http://www.iomfreethinkers.co.uk)

7.30 Sun May 9th: Morton Hall; Onchan.

Discussion "Why I Am An Atheist": To be opened by Stu Peters (of Manx Radio, etc).

12.00 Thurs May 20th: Alessandros Restaurant, Douglas  
Lunch

#### **Liverpool Humanists**

<http://livehum.org>

No Event Listed - Usually meet on the second Wednesday of each month centrally in Liverpool.

#### **Greater Manchester Humanists**

<http://gmh.humanist.org.uk>

7pm Wed 12th May Friends Meeting House, Mount St, M2 5NS  
Talk by Jane Baraclough -  
Minister of Cross St Chapel

#### **South Cheshire And North Staffs Humanists**

[www.humanists.org.uk](http://www.humanists.org.uk)

7.30 Thurs 20th May: Home of Brenda and Stuart.  
Bring a piece of music, poem, reading or artwork you'd like to talk about.

#### **Humanist Society of West Yorkshire**

[www.wyhumanists.org.uk](http://www.wyhumanists.org.uk)

7pm Thurs 13th May: Swarthmore, 3-7 Woodhouse Sq, Leeds  
LS3 1AD  
Humanism & Public Services in Yorkshire"  
Brian Quinn, Yorkshire Regional  
Representative.

*\* With apologies - the [hyperlinks](#) are for those reading this 'on-line' \**