

PULSE e-Bulletin

Promoting Unitarianism in London & the South-East



**FEBRUARY
2011**

**District
Administrator:**

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Website:

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse



Light the fire weekend success

52 people from throughout the District and beyond participated in the exciting Light the Fire event held at Aylesford, Kent on the weekend of 28 – 30 January. The weekend was designed not as a retreat for personal spirituality, or as a workshop on congregational life, but as an opportunity for all participants to reconnect with the fire of faith within themselves so that they could then be more inspired and better equipped to lead their congregations to greater vitality and outreach to the world.

From the Opening Celebration on the Friday evening, in which four people gave personal testimonies about their own Unitarian flame, it was apparent to everyone that this weekend had a special energy to it. Saturday was given mainly to creating dreams for all we might do in five different areas – Theology, Worship, Congregational Life, Social Justice and Personal Spiritual De-

velopment – and each of the five groups gave creative, inspiring and hilarious presentations. Saturday evening saw an unprecedented innovation – Unitarian karaoke! Beware trans-sexuals from Transylvania which might be seen lurking in north London! The weekend concluded with a service in which the six “spark” groups presented their mini-worships as part of a larger service.

One participant, attending a Unitarian event for the first time, announced it as the best weekend of her life, a comment not appreciated by the husband she had left at home!

Will people be wearing T shirts in years to come that proudly announce, “I was at Aylesford, 2011”? The calls from those present for more such events will be heeded. If you were not at Aylesford, 2011, don't miss the next opportunity.



Opportunity for London churches to benefit from youth volunteers

Kate Buchanan, a member of PULSE Council, works for a volunteer agency which has an intriguing offer for city based churches.

A team of 12 young people would visit the church on a Wednesday morning during July or August to find out more about the church, how it runs, the activities it does etc. The church representative may suggest ways that young people could help - e.g. cleaning up the church grounds, helping out with a community event or fundraising. It is then up to the team whether or not they want to do a community project with the church. If they decide to do so, they would make a presentation to a Dragons Den-style panel to try to win up to £100 seed funding. They would then complete their project on three Saturdays or three Sundays during September at the church.

The programme runs in the following London boroughs so any

churches within these boroughs could be included:

North: Hackney, Islington, Camden, Barnet, Brent, Westminster

West: Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing, Wandsworth, Merton, Hounslow, Richmond, Kingston, Sutton

South: Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon, Bromley

If you think your congregation might be interested in benefitting from this programme, as well as offering an educational opportunity for some young people, please contact Kate whose details are below:

Kate Buchanan, Senior Staffing Associate, The Challenge Network

e: kate.buchanan@the-challenge.org

t: 020 7921 4405

m: 07908 947 922

Skype:

[kate.buchanan.the.challenge](https://www.skype.com/people/kate.buchanan.the.challenge)



Last year's talent show

Talent Show Friday 4th February 7.30pm

Rosslyn Hill Chapel choir are hosting a fund-raising Supper and Talent Show on Friday 4th February at 7.30pm at the chapel. As well as a gourmet-style meal, there will be a wide variety of entertaining individual and choral 'acts', many of them of professional standard. We'd be delighted to meet friends from LDPA then. The cost of the evening is £12.00. More info from Margaret Perry 02032271066.

Want to promote an event?

The national and district websites have an easy online event form for congregations to promote events that may be of interest to other Unitarians. If you have a poster, booking form or leaflet, these can all be added to the site by James Barry and his team at DUWIT for people to download and use. The form can be found at <http://www.unitarian.org.uk/sendmes.php?event=1>

Unitarian Communications Network Annual Conference 25th –27th Feb

This will take place at Great Hucklow, 25th-27th February 2011. They are excellent occasions, full of useful information and suggestions about how to improve your congregation's internal communications and public profile.

Plans are proceeding well as the time approaches, and those who are intending to come may want to turn their mind to the shape of what they would wish their congregation/organisation to promote. This year the weekend is based on what your congregation/organisation does and what it offers. Hopefully, you are planning a specific event that will be the focus of your weekend but some may wish to promote a wider spectrum ranging from worship to extra activities as part of the organisation but also connected to the community they serve. The weekend too will be focused on participants being active and all the sessions, returning home with not only ideas but also guidelines and practical experience that will be useful to them in the future.

For those of you who can arrive for the afternoon session, James Barry will be running a workshop on how to create promotional literature using Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Photoshop elements. All those who have been to James' Friday afternoon sessions will recognise the value of them and want to take advantage again if at all possible.

On Friday evening Angela Maher, will show you how to identify and target your audience. This will serve in your chosen weekend project as well as being useful in any future promotional work you may wish to do.

Saturday will be given over to writing for the press and other useful publications, (Kate Taylor) getting on radio and learning how to be interviewed (Bob Wightman) and designing and printing your publicity leaflet/material (James Barry). These will run through the whole of Saturday.

On Sunday we can look forward to the service at the chapel, to be taken by our GA President Neville Kenyon, who will be with us throughout the weekend.

The DUWIT team will be in evidence throughout the weekend to respond to any web questions you may have brought with you.

After booking (directly through The Nightingale Centre) you will be sent more information about what would be useful to bring with you for the weekend.

The booking form can be found on UCCN website: www.uccn.org.uk.

It would be good if as many congregations from the London District as possible can be represented at this event. It is an excellent investment.

Mid-Week Group to form?

There is interest being expressed in the formation of a Unitarian group meeting on a mid-week evening in the Wimbledon area. If you might be interested in such a group, please contact Tim Mamak on 07969954546 or Rev. John Carter on 07956304314.

How to
PUBLICISE an event
Unitarian Publicity
UCCN
2011
Conference

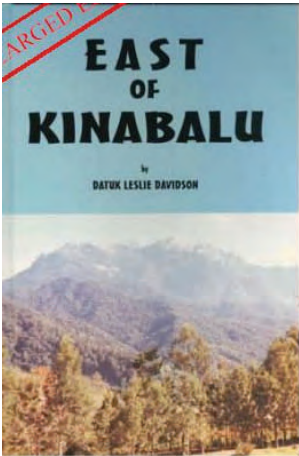
2011 Conference Workshop

Worksops / Presentations:
* marketing ideas * writing a press release
* using local radio * publicity images
* promotional literature * using the internet

Optional Friday workshop to create a leaflet
25-27 Feb 2011 - Great Hucklow
ask your congregation, society or district to sponsor you

www.uccn.org.uk
James t: 07770 441088 e: jbarry@unitarian.org.uk

Ethics, Ecology and the Interdependent Web 19th February



East of Kinabalu by
Ditchling Unitarian
Datuk Leslie
Davidson

On Saturday 19 February at Croydon Unitarian Church The International Assoc. for Religious Freedom www.iarf.net will host a day entitled Ethics, Ecology and the Interdependent Web

Featuring Rev. Peter Owen Jones (of BBC "Around the World in 80 Faiths), Vinod Kapashi (Jain), Datuk Leslie Davidson, a world recognized expert on Palm Oil. (Datuk is an honour similar to Knighthood). Other Speakers from Environmental Groups are invited. Davidson, a Ditchling Unitarian, has written a book of insight and humour on his work in developing Palm Oil Plantations in Sabah, Borneo: EAST OF KINABALU. He will be signing copies for those who wish to buy.

Single minded pursuit of one goal can damage or destroy other goals equally valuable. A 2010 book THE NEW HOLY WARS describes "Economic Religion vs. Environmental Religion." As we use corn to produce fuel, the price of food doubles for millions. Millions of acres are destroyed for lumber, the ecosystem of animals and our planet is threatened

As we use corn to produce fuel, the price of food doubles for millions. Millions of acres are destroyed for lumber, the ecosystem of animals and our planet is threatened.

In his article, "Save the Jungles. How? Plant Palm Oil." Davidson writes, "The current campaign against palm oil would, if successful, result in the malnutrition of billions of Indians and Chinese. .Of vegetable oil plants, the oil palm is by far the highest yielding, producing an average of 3.66 tons of oil per hectare against 0.36 for soybean, 0.46 for sunflower and 0.6 for rapeseed. Palm Oil produces 34% of the world's major vegetable oils in under 5% of the planted area under oil crops." Davidson is a long time member of the World Wildlife Fund.

The event start at 10am and will finish by 3.30pm and a £5 donation towards running the day is requested. Coffee, Tea and Juice provided and lunch will be "Bring and Share".

If you are coming, please phone or email Richard Boeke 01403 257 801 <r.boeke@virgin.net>.

District Annual General Meeting 19th March

This will be held at Essex Church, Kensington, on Saturday 19th March, starting at 1.30 with a service led by several ministers active in the District. There will be some vacancies on the District Council due to some people standing down after giving many years of excellent service, so please consider allowing

yourself to be nominated. The Constitution requires that congregations outside the M25 be adequately represented, so that is a particular need. Council meets in the early evening every two months, on a day to suit members.

Valentine Concert at Horsham Unitarian Church—9th February

On Wednesday, 9 February, 7:30 PM, Celebrate with a concert at the Horsham Unitarian Church on Worthing Road (across road from Horsham Bus Station). Elizabeth Hills, Piano, and Andrew Wickens, violin, will perform Dvorak's 'Romance,' 'Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and works by Rachmaninov, Liszt, & Tchaikovsky.

After an intermission of tea, cider, biscuits & more, Dianne Walters will lead us all in familiar songs. Then she will sing "If I Loved You" from Carousel, "And This Is My Beloved" from Kismet, & "Summertime" from Porgy and Bess.

Horsham Folk Singer Stuart Coupe will play acoustic guitar and lead us in a sing-along of two of his songs.

Violin and Piano will close the evening as we look forward to St. Valentine's Day.

This concert will honour Rev. Austin Fitzpatrick of England, and Bishop Arpad Szabo of Romania. These

leaders in Interfaith Understanding died in the past few months. Both were active members of the International Assoc. for Religious Freedom www.iarf.net which is sponsoring the concert.

A Five Pound (£5) donation is requested. All proceeds will be evenly divided between a scholarship fund honouring Bishop Szabo, and the new community building of the Unitarian Church in Brasso, Transylvania. Rev. Sandor Mathe, minister in Brasso, is a dear friend of both Rev Fitzpatrick & Bishop Szabo. Dictator Nicholae Ceausescu oppressed the Hungarian Minority and planned to destroy 200 of their churches. Now membership in the EUU has brought a new freedom for Protestants to build.

For information phone Richard Boeke at 01403 257 801



Liz Hills and Andrew Wickens will be among the musical talent

Who needs sacraments?

A workshop for all-comers, Saturday 12th February 2011

Kensington Unitarian Church (Essex Church)
112 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT.
Nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate.

The Rev Bill Darlison will introduce sacraments and symbols that could breathe new life into our worship and rites of passage services, based on his ministry at Dublin Unitarian Church. The aim is that participants should feel empowered to begin using these in their own congregations.

Programme:

12.30 pm – Arrivals, tea and lunch (please bring a packed lunch)

1.30 pm – Workshop begins

4.15 pm – Tea and departures.

(Organised by: London and SE District Liberal Christian Affinity Group.
Further information: Jim Corrigan – 020 8361 1843).



Foy Conference 'Anthropology in a Digital Age' 29th April - 2nd May 2011



The Foy Society (originally called The Fellowship of Youth and designed for young adults) is a Unitarian group which meets for its Annual Spring Conference in different parts of the country.

This year's study subject will focus on the influence of technology on our daily lives. Has technology affected our behaviour? For many the answer has to be a resounding YES! For example, the Mobile Phone in its various guises makes instant communication possible, but does it make us better people? What about those who have little or no access to the digital world due to socio-economic, political, physical and sensory barriers? How does the technological revolution benefit them? Also there are the inevitable positives and negatives - the latter should not be overlooked; the *Internet, Facebook, Twitter*, etc have their darker sides. Caught up in the challenge/excitement of the 'new' are we abnegating our responsibilities?

In addition during the weekend there will be free time for local walks, visits, worship/meditation and other activities. Foy AGM is also scheduled to take place.

The Conference will be held at the Barnes Close, Chadwich, Malthouse Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 0RA

The conference begins on Friday evening and ends with lunch on Monday. Registration starts at 6:30pm on Friday evening, with dinner served at 7pm.

For more information and a booking from please contact:

Joan Partington, Foy Conference Secretary, "Sandcroft", Townhead, Hayton, BRAMPTON Cumbria CA8 9JF, Tel: 01228 670565, Email: partingtons@gmail.com

Joan is away in Feb/March so queries requiring a response please contact David Warhurst. tel: 01609 882442, E: hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk

New District Administrator sought

After being in the post for a year, Stella Eve has indicated that she intends to resign as District Administrator due to the pressure of her other work commitments. Stella has done a superb job as Administrator, particularly in her work with IMPULSE and this monthly eBulletin, and we are very sorry that she feels the need to resign. We thank her most warmly for her competence, enthusiasm and unflinching good humour. She has kindly agreed to stay in the post

until her successor can be appointed.

A new District Administrator is required to work an average of ten hours per week. Duties and skills include computer literacy, particularly familiarity with desktop publishing, a knowledge of Unitarianism in the District and the ability to work at home and be largely self-motivated. Please apply to the District Minister, Rev. David Usher, no later than 8th March.

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Unitarianism is a liberal religious faith

Unitarians are religious people, heirs to a historical tradition of over 400 years, who recognize and seek wisdom in all the world's great religious, philosophical, and artistic traditions.

Unitarian congregations offer weekly worship services that draw upon the breadth of these great sources of inspiration.

Unitarians believe that each individual is on their own spiritual journey, but that together we can journey toward wholeness.

The LDPA (Pulse) serves the 28 Unitarian congregations in Southeast England, including 9 congregations in London. For more information please go to www.ldpa.org.uk or www.unitarian.org.uk



District Minister
Rev David Usher

Calendar

February

Friday 4— 7.30pm Talent Show and fund raising evening, Hampstead

Wednesday 9— 7.30pm Valentine Concert, Horsham

Saturday 12— 12.30pm Who needs sacraments? workshop, Kensington

Saturday 19 — 10.00am 'Ethics, Ecology and the Interdependent Web' Croydon

Friday 25-Sunday 27 — Unitarian Communications Network Annual Conference Hucklow

Monday 22 — Deadline for March e-bulletin

