

UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2012



An October weekend at Great Hucklow

In this issue

Ann Peart-GA President pg 2

Poetry written at Gathering - pgs 2 & 6

GA Report pgs 3-5

Praying Like a Woman pg 7

UU Women's Conference in Transylvania pg 8

In Memoriam - Margaret Hamer pgs. 9-10

Report on UWG Conference 2011 pg 11

Send-a-Child-to-Hucklow Appeal pg 12

UWG AGM 2011 Minutes pgs 13-15

UWG Contacts, Diary & Membership form pg 16



GRACE



I saw a rainbow on my
bed today –

Through the window
Glancing off the mirror

Cherry red, luscious
lime

Purple to shy violet

All the colours of the
spectrum

Striping plain white
sheet.

Art and nature joined
for this

Private show –
uninvited –

And I, honoured by its
bounty.

- *Celia*

Ann Peart

If you read *The Inquirer* on 14th May, you will have seen Celia Midgley's introduction of Ann at the GA meetings in Swansea. One can smile at the thought of her being Hyde Chapel's May Queen fifty years ago and then be awed by her academic achievements (a graduate of Cambridge University and Manchester College, Oxford, followed by a PhD) and her career success (retiring as the first woman principal of Unitarian College, Manchester) then, exhausted by her sporting achievements (walking, dancing and a Cambridge rowing blue) and impressed by her tireless efforts in the fight against injustice and inequality (particularly women's issues).



But, it is the human side of Ann that really matters. After what must have been an exhausting and challenging GA in Swansea, Ann arrived home around 10.30 pm on the Monday evening. She must have been up very early the next morning to catch a train from Manchester before 6.00 am which enabled her to pay her respects at the funeral of Margaret Hamer, in Cambridge, at 11.00 am the same morning.

Ann was a founder member of the Women's Group and we are proud that she has attained this high office. She regularly attends our annual gathering and uses all her experience and talents as she plays a full and active role in its proceedings.

So, representing all members of the Unitarian Women's Group, may we wish Ann a successful and enjoyable year as President.



GA REPORT

by Dorothy Haughton

Being a delegate is not particularly strenuous: setting up a table and womaning it when there is a moment of spare time, listening to the discussion on the motions and voting on them. In fact it is a great pleasure and a privilege, thank you very much for sending me to the GA.

Being there was much harder. Firstly you have to decide which of all the interesting meetings you should go to and then you have to try and remember where the meeting is. Swansea is, thankfully, not a huge campus but it was fairly easy to get disorientated. Early in the proceedings James Barry announced: "Make for the yellow sweatshirt" and there were certainly plenty of 'yellow' volunteers about to help a lost soul. And we had walking buses - follow the appropriate placard from the dining hall and you would be led to your meeting.

The theme of the conference was 'Celebrating our Volunteers' and I urge you to go to: <http://www.unitarian.org.uk/info/news-GA2011.shtml> in order to see for yourself the uplifting videos that we saw.

Eric Jones welcomed us to Swansea at the start of the Business Meetings and urged us to keep this in our minds throughout them: "Laugh, Smile and Sing." We did our best.

The treasurer's report revealed that money was still tight, and as we learned to our cost last year when it was not possible to appoint a Social Responsibility Officer, many of the things we want we can't have. Please note: give a £1 to the GA and it is matched by the Bowland Trust, gift aiding it adds an extra 20p so the GA gets £2.20.

However, most of the motions did relate to social justice and were all passed, in most cases unanimously: support for asylum seekers, affirming the Charter for Compassion and congratulating Amnesty International on its 50th Anniversary. We also congratulated the Unitarian Universalist Association on its 50th Anniversary.

PS re Charter for Compassion: Karen Armstrong's book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* is really worth reading. One church is using it as a basis for discussion.

The motion, however, that received the most joyous acclamation was that to welcome Unododiaid Bangor Unitarians.

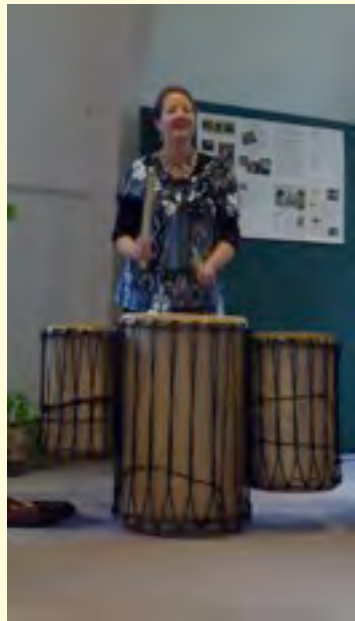
We were urged to put our thoughts about volunteering in our congregations onto hexagons that were collected and are now on: <http://www.unitarian.org.uk/pdfs/GA2011-Hexagons.pdf>. My two favourites are:

"I'm a 5th generation Unitarian and my congregation are like my family. I'm a youth leader, fashion icon, and chapel treasurer, I'm a little mad!"

"Ant made me!"

...cont'd on pg 4...





...cont'd from pg 3.....

but many repeated the same message: Unitarianism/my church/my congregation has given me so much; I want to give something back.

Volunteering was the theme of many of the lectures and workshops with a very clear point being made that it is possible to achieve a great deal if you have good governance and clear objectives. Much of the useful information has been printed in *The Inquirer* and more can be found on the website above but I would draw your attention in particular to the officer training sections.

You might also like to look at the Strategic Priorities section where Visibility was a major sub-theme that also ran through many of the presentations. In becoming more visible a virtuous circle is created: we do more in our local communities because, as Cathie said at our conference in 2010, social justice is one of our founding principles, we learn to work together as we do this, developing skills and our strength as a community, we become more visible in the community, we attract more people, we are able to do more within the congregation and without. A warning was sounded: if you want new people they have to be equal members and they might **want to change things**. The message came over loud and clear: we have to make sure that we live up to everything we say about ourselves.

David Usher told a very pertinent story about a yacht. The essence of the story is that you have invited all your friends onto your luxury yacht for a delicious dinner when you see people in the water ahead. Should you pick them up, get dirty water all over your lovely carpets, have them eat all the food, have to abandon your day-out to get them back to land when there is, after all, a life-boat service that will do the job just as well if not better? We have to ask ourselves is that how we feel about incomers, especially incomers who don't want to just sit at the back? David later described Unitarianism as a Rolls Royce disguised as a battered Morris Minor. Though throughout the GA meetings there was a feeling of excitement and a great deal of positive thinking it became clearer and clearer that it was never going to be enough just to be more active, everything we undertake has to be underlaid by deep reflection.

Of all the interesting and challenging meetings I attended, the most thought-provoking was that by Dr Helen Quane to the Penal Affairs Panel and you can hear the lecture on: <http://go.podia.net/lobby.aspx?c=1734>.

We gladly thanked past presidents for their work, as we also thanked Eric Jones for his service as Secretary of the Welsh Department. We warmly welcomed Carwyn Tywyn as the new Welsh Secretary and the Reverend Doctor Ann Peart as our new President. We had earlier talked about strap lines – a bit like lift statements, putting into one short phrase what you are about. No problem for Carwyn, a talented harpist as he proved to us. 'Alowon o'r Stryd' is the title of one of his CDs and he is indeed a provider of tunes of the street as he has busked in many places to raise money for his PhD studies. Ann Peart proved more of a problem. Two suggestions were: *Hyde Chapel May Queen 1961* or *The first woman principal of Unitarian College, Manchester – inaugurated as the president of the General Assembly*. Later in the bar, *Lesbian Rowing Blue* was put forward. Incidentally, it is the duty of all UWG members, as Ann is 'one of us', to supply her with gin or good company or good counsel whenever she may need it.

As we were in Wales there was a lot of music, Carwyn played his harp, we were entertained by a young choir, Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion, and then we attended a Welsh Singing Festival in the beautiful Brangwyn Hall before the Anniversary Service, sang hymns in Welsh and English and listened to another young choir, Cor Dwy Nant. There was finally a triumphant singing in the dining hall of Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, the Welsh National Anthem, by all the Welsh delegates.

There was music in the Opening Ceremony with Dawn Buckle leading her Golden Thread dancers in three sections of dance, each of which lead onto the stage the banners of the assembled congregations. As we left we were all given our own golden thread. Stuart Coupe played his guitar and sang a song of his own composition. There were also three Talking Head monologues brilliantly written by Kay Millard that I was privileged to perform and which were very well received. Several people announced their intention of performing them as part of a service. If you would like to do this you can get the scripts from me; please make a donation to the Ministerial Student Fund.

We had been wooed with the latest technology during the business meetings: videos and power points. This was to continue in the Anniversary Service when we had wonderful pictures of the 'Entry into Jerusalem' with Kath Taylor giving her usual lucid commentary on some of them to accompany the address by Rev Jeff Lane Gould.

I came away from the GA with an attractive hessian bag donated by David Edwards Insurance, a Golden Thread, five badges produced by Buyan reading: We need not think alike to love alike, Be the change you wish to see in the world, Are you Unitarian and don't know it? Flaming Unitarians and Honest doubt is better than unquestioned belief (soon to be available, we were promised, to the wider Unitarian community), a hand-painted lantern made by Junior Weekenders in memory of Trevor Jones, a Trevor and Sheila CD (I really like *Long, long past*), some new friends, a lot of really useful information and a store of memories.

I also collected some pithy sayings to share with my congregation. As they say nowadays in restaurants "Enjoy":

- Smile a lot, laugh a lot, sing a lot - it's good for your cholesterol

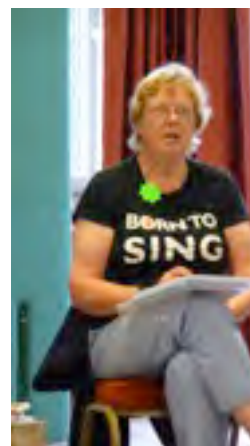
- You can control ½ million hp but you can't control your temper
- The family that prays together, stays together. The congregation that works together stays together.
- Unitarianism should not be a committee that talks about whether we should rearrange the deckchairs on the Titanic.

From Jane Dwinell, an expert on small congregations:

- ensure that everything is of the best possible quality
- consider what it is like for someone coming into your church for the first time
- have a cause beyond yourself
- have a vision of being bigger
- no bad behaviour
- we grow through our action in the community
- Human rights are not earned, nor can they be lost by bad behaviour.
- Confirm the spiritual practice of generosity.
- Participate in something greater than yourself.
- Experience the joy of living together Unitarianly.
- Unitarianism is of such value that we owe it to share it.
- Be aware of heart-lag (*ask me to explain if you haven't heard this before*)
- Make the spirituality of Unitarianism visible in action.
- Participate in something greater than yourself.

See you at the next GA, 3 to 6 April, Keele University, Staffordshire.

And, thank you again.



- Dorothy Haughton

Poetry for Pleasure

A list of the poems that I used in my session at U.W.G. and, as far as possible, where they are to be found.



1. No Coward Soul is Mine by Emily Bronte from The Professor: Tales from Angria, Poems etc. by the Brontes – Collins Classics
2. In a Dark Stone by Jenny Joseph from Extreme of Things – Bloodaxe Books
3. Warming Her Pearls (for Judith Radstone) by Carol Ann Duffy from Selected Poems – Penguin
4. A Village of Water by Sarah Maguire from The Pomegranates of Kandahar – Chatto & Windus
5. Birdsong at the Rec. by Jo Bell – I heard Jo recently at a National Poetry Day (6th October) event and I found this poem on her website.
6. The Strange Visitor by an English Folk Tale by Joseph Jacobs – I found this on a website under its title.
7. The Telephone Call by Fleur Adcock from Six Women Poets – Oxford
8. The Ruined Maid by Thomas Hardy from The Nation's Favourite Poems – B.B.C.
9. My Grandmother by Elizabeth Jennings from Penguin Modern Poets 1.
10. The Chiffonier by Fleur Adcock from Six Women Poets – Oxford
11. Rainbow by Juliet Edwards – Available on request
12. Beyond the Green Door by Aria Datta (copyright October 2011)

- Juliet Edwards

Four grandchildren and one to come
I love them all to bits.
But one is special to my soul,
Is this fair?

Lara has deep brown eyes
That twinkle in the sun
We play together read and sing
But is this fair?

At five she is a thoughtful child
and will go far
I feel I am reflected here
But is this fair?

I see myself in chldlike form
Often unwell, in hated home.
So, I will love them everyone
But Lara will be different!

- Helen P

We must pray with our eyes open, refusing to see nothing of what is hidden, secret – blatant lies.

We must pray with heads held high, refusing to bow in obsequiousness to prelate, priest or pope.

We must pray with tongues loosened, ready to cry out our anger, rage, pain and desire, refusing any longer to be silent.

We must pray with our bodies known, bared, touching our own knowledge, knowing our instinctual wisdom, refusing to be violated or shamed.

We must denounce false ways of praying, false names for God, false myths and images and stories.

We must accuse our God of all that has abused us, crippled us, maimed us. We must drag deity to court, testify against him, lay the charge at his feet, bring forward many witnesses and see what he will answer. We must refuse all excuses, justifications, legitimations. We must insist on the charge, 'Guilty'.

We must lament our lost betrayed bodies, knowledge, abandoned altars, mourn our vessels: the sacred chalice

We must search out the sacred of forgetfulness, dust of denial. the past, retrieve what can be uncover.....

We must talk together, censure, ridicule or limitation....

We must keep each other good silences of wonder, must wait out of the heavy anguish. We must come against

hatred and abuse. We must learn all the many languages of silence, discriminating between them, know when to tarry, terminate or tease out of our wordlessness.

We must find a way of knowing and of praying which is ours. We must test each inherited tradition, each learnt discipline, each accepted way. We must learn to say 'No' in many different tongues: tartly, fiercely, tearfully, proudly. ...

This is what we must do, what some of us have been doing, what we'll carry on doing for a long time to come: working the territory, weaving the tapestry, making the journey. Learning a new language to sing and stutter and shout all we've been aching to say all our lives. And finding how to do it as we do it, learning as we practice, making the way as we walk it. Following no blueprint, copying no precursor, we'll craft a journey unpredictable, cast a pattern asymmetrical and intricate, as delicate as it is unrepeatable, tender and indestructible, made of colours vivid, tenacious, wild.

(c) Nicola Slee 2004. Extracts from the prose poem in the first chapter of her book Praying Like a Woman, published by SPCK. Reproduced by kind permission of the author.



history, liturgy, story. We must bewail our beauty. We must reproach our overturned tables, weep for the broken shattered, scattered in a thousand pieces.

sites, covered over with centuries' layers We must dig down deep into the earth of slaved, report what our excavations

endlessly, unhurrying, and without

company in silence. We must cherish the completion, ecstasy and intimacy. We silences of uncertainty, ambiguity and the deadly silence of paralysis, passivity,

Transylvanian Convocation



Keeping Your Balance in a Changing World Second International Convocation of Unitarian*Universalist Women *Save the Date!! October 4th - October 7th, 2012* *Marosvásárhely - Târgu Mureș, Transylvania, Romania*

The Convocation is the second international meeting of UU women and people from liberal faiths committed to initiatives to improve women's lives worldwide.

BELIEVE TOGETHER - We will honor our Unitarian heritage; share our faith stories and how we live our values in the family and in the community.

THINK TOGETHER - Learn about: the four pillars of human development theory; the new UN Women entity dedicated to improving the status of women worldwide; efforts to prevent family violence; and programs to ensure educational opportunities for girls.



SING TOGETHER - Make time for yourself: meditation practices and other ways of coping with stress. Honor the choices we make as women.

ACT TOGETHER - Live through the global economic crisis; how to count and value women's uncompensated labor; and explore the challenges facing the worldwide micro-credit and finance industry.

CHANGE TOGETHER - Define our partnership across cultures; maintain local values and culture in a global community; develop women's leadership skills; and use the democratic process for community improvements.

Where and how much? Early bird registration (by March 1, 2012) is \$300 per person including hotel (airfare not included). Full registration price is \$350 per person (airfare not included) after March 1, 2012. Registration includes accommodation at [Hotel Continental](#) in Marosvásárhely - Târgu-Mureș. Scholarships will be available.

The languages of the conference are English and Hungarian.

Further details from: Gizi Nagy, in Transylvania, nagygizella@ymail.com

IN MEMORIAM

remembering those UWG members who have left us

MARGARET CHRISTINE HAMER

17 May 1939 - 6 April 2011



Margaret was a multi-faceted person, and our memories of her reflect this. As we tried to prepare what to say today different sides of her character – and ours – were brought to the surface. One characteristic which we all valued was what Margaret drew out and appreciated in her friends. She reflected back to us, her friends, the best aspects of ourselves – sometimes things that we ourselves were not aware of. We were cheered, encouraged and enhanced by this positive view of us – even when backed up by wise and realistic comment or advice.

As we talked memories flooded in, one triggering another, and laughter was evoked much of the time, but we, and she, could and did approach and explore deeper serious topics together.

We were lucky to spend many holidays with Margaret – sometimes all of us, or Sonya

and Margaret (Pyle), or Barbara – happy, renewing times.

Our separate holidays were different in style; Sonya and Margaret Pyle self catering – no time for serious reflection because far more serious UNO challenges were the order of the day, or rather the evening. Passions ran high.



With Barbara foreign travel broadened minds with new experiences, sometimes promoting serious reflection, tempered with generous quantities of wine with dinner.

What we have said so far is sincere and heartfelt, but perhaps rather general, so we would each like to share a specific, individual recollection.

Sonya recalled a recurring pattern:

Margaret was a self admitted shopaholic, and shared our love of charity shops.

She would always buy something to help their charity, be it an unloved vase or a chipped

teapot, but hardly ever a book, because she owned and/or had read almost every book in existence.

Margaret's memory was of a holiday:

We went on a self-catering holiday to attend the literary festival in Southwold.

One evening both Margarets went together to hear Roy Jenkins reminisce. On coming out we couldn't find the car, but we passed Adnams (the local brewer's shop) where they were giving out free glasses of champagne. So we thought that as we couldn't find the car we might as well have a drink. So we did. We eventually found the car and then tried to find the way home. We were going along and Margaret said "Look, there are lights, " and I said "That's Southwold pier and the sea!" However we did get back with supper for all in the boot of the car.

Outside the cottage it was very dark and Margaret couldn't see to open the boot, and it looked just as though she was breaking and entering.

We got into the boot with much laughter and tumbled into the cottage and regaled our hungry friends with our exploits.

Barbara called to mind the last time she saw Margaret: This is in keeping with many memories – Margaret was Margaret to the

end of her life, and lived her life to the end.

My recollection of my last visit to Margaret in hospital a few days before she died was preceded by a visit two days before when Margaret signed a permission for Ulla and myself to be given medical details of her condition. Margaret was concerned about changes she wanted to make to her will, and on that final visit I reassured her that this was in hand. I then said, "Actually Margaret you needn't trouble yourself about your will, because the very small residual amount left after what you signed over to me two days ago is really not worth troubling about."

She looked slightly puzzled, then understanding dawned and she said, "You are an incorrigible woman!"

And so I left her humorously rebuking me as so many times before.



She was our friend.
We loved her.
We miss her.

- Submitted by Barbara Smith

Margaret's memory lives on with us in so many ways:

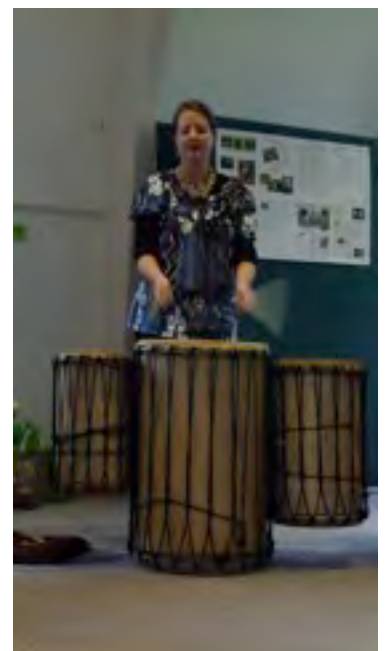
- Women's Group at Golders Green made a donation to Womankind Worldwide in memory of Margaret.
- More information about Margaret can be found at Joan Wilkinson's website: www.yorkshiregirl.org.uk
- The cheque for £2,500 has now reached UWG from Margaret Hamer's estate via her solicitors. This donation will be used, as was Margaret's wish, to support the use of outside speakers at UWG events.
- Send A Child To Hucklow has also received a cheque from Margaret's executors for £5,000.



If you would like to re-live in a small (and quieter!) way, the energy of our drumming session, please go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCjEUu0HubI>

This is not on public display so you need to have this reference in order to access it.

The short video clip was made by Danielle Wilson.



REPORT ON 2011 UWG CONFERENCE



I booked on this year's UWG Conference because last year's, the first one I'd ever attended, was such a hoot, I mean, profound exploration of my spirituality as a woman. Well it is possible to have both together, and the 2011 Conference proved this again.

Nicky Jenkins devised a great programme which led us from debate to contemplation to massed drumming. The drumming was brilliant. Zoe Jeffreyes, drum teacher and choir leader, was brilliant. And we were brilliant! Zoe spent Saturday afternoon with us, exploring our sense of our own rhythm and teaching us a West African song, and a series of drumming patterns and calls and responses. At the end of the session we performed the whole thing through – chanting the words, listening for drum 'roulement' that told us when to start and stop, keeping the timing through Zoe's drum solos, and each of us beating our djembe drums to at least three different rhythms. In a weekend which is naturally (and wonderfully) full of words it was also very satisfying and moving to devote part of it to expressing our togetherness and energy in a quite different way.

Earlier in the day we explored both rhythm and words and had great fun performing a spoken ballad in two parts – funny voices, silly words – in a poetry session led by Juliet Edwards. Juliet also chose ten poems for us to read and listen to – most by women, all expressing aspects of women's lives, here, now – and in other times and places. It was a beautiful selection and the list of poems appears in this newsletter. Inspired, we had a go at writing our own poems.

Saturday started with a session led by Ann Peart on Women, Sexuality and Prayer. We pondered and discussed in small groups ideas of God – the importance of finding words and ways to express God – moving beyond the traditional paternal, male images, reclaiming and creating female expressions of the divine. Readings from Alice Walker's novel 'The Colour Purple' and Praying Like a Woman by Nicola Slee gave us some powerful images and thoughts to work with.

Later Nicky led us into discussions about what feminism means to us today. This provoked some really interesting debate around femaleness, feminism and femininity – about how female sexuality can be used, whether it should be, and the roles of women in communities and churches. The 50 ish year age range in the group really added to the range and depth of views and experiences.

Edwina Roberts, a volunteer with Womankind Worldwide told us about the charity's work to secure equality and respect for women everywhere. Edwina gave us some alarming statistics – 67% of the world's female population is illiterate; more women die as a result of domestic violence than from cancer and road traffic accidents combined. Womankind's role is to work consistently and intelligently over the long term with women and communities, to develop skills, empower

women, change attitudes and habits. Womankind also lobbies governments to support women's equality through law and practice. There is more information about their work at www.womankind.org.uk

On Sunday morning we joined the regular congregation at Old Chapel for a thoughtful service led by Liz Shaw. The themes of sharing responsibility for making change in the world, identifying all as 'we' not 'they' – resonated strongly with some of our conference sessions particularly for me with Edwina's presentation about Womankind.

We ended each day of the UWG Conference with a period of prayer, reflection, togetherness and some heartfelt singing, led by members of the group.

Thank you Nicky for organising such a fabulous Conference weekend and for keeping us on track. Somehow we manage to fit in the business of the UWG Annual General Meeting, where the excitement and enthusiasm generated by the weekend resulted in several volunteers keen to put together the programme for next year and beyond. I can't wait!

- Submitted by Alison Patrick

Give free of charge to
Send A Child To Hucklow (SACH)

Will you help us send
10 groups of 20 children
each year for a holiday
at Great Hucklow



Our target is to raise £30,000

Please send gifts or get further
information from:

The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund*
24 Arlington Drive, Derby DE24 0AU
www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk



*A British Unitarian Social Action Project for nearly 50 years
Registered Charity No. 271585

- Do you shop on line?
- Would you like to donate to SACH at no cost to yourself?
- Do you shop at Amazon, B&Q, Boots, Currys, Debenhams, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Tesco, M&S, PC World and hundreds of other well-known companies?
- There is an organisation called Easyfundraising that will donate 1.5% of everything you spend on line to SACH.
- Does this sound impossible?

Well, all you have to do is:

- cut and paste the link below
- this will take you directly to the SACH page at Easyfundraising
- register your name
- put the link in your bookmarks/favourites list
- then, everytime you shop on line go through this link and start raising money

The link is:

[http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/
sendachildtohucklowfund/?
badge=me_small-1_C554JT_21AAKM.png&u=
21AAKM&urp=21AAKM](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sendachildtohucklowfund/?badge=me_small-1_C554JT_21AAKM.png&u=21AAKM&urp=21AAKM)

Thanks to all of you,

- Sue Cooper



UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 28th October- 30th October 2011

In Attendance

Dawn Buckle, Anne Bodman, Juliet Edwards, Mary Frodsham, Sheila Jones, Cathie Masztalerz, Margaret Pyle, Sonya Richards, Barbara Smith, Ann Peart, Christine Thompson, Linda King, Alison Patrick, Danielle Wilson, Nicky Jenkins, Dorothy Haughton, Margaret Robinson, Celia Midgley, Sue Cooper, Helen Parsons, Ann Bateman, Celia Cartwright, Sue Brayford, Liz Roper, Angela Maher, Kate Buchanan, Patricia Williams, Christine Martin, Maggie Davies.

Chair for the meeting: Sheila Jones (until nominations for officers) Chris Thompson is voted in as Chairperson after this section.

1. Apologies and greetings

Ingrid Tavkar, Jean Mason, Sheila Wedell and Penny Johnson.

2. Greetings from the Reverend Doctor Ann Peart, President of the GA.

Ann Peart expressed greetings from the General Assembly and explained that the Women's Group played an important role both at local, congregational level and at national level. She would ensure that the GA would receive a report of the Women's Group conference.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October to 31st October 2010.

The minutes were accepted unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting.
(Proposed by Linda King, seconded by Juliet Edwards)

4. Matters Arising

A cheque for £100 had been sent to the Poppy Project which provided refuges for sex trafficked women. Linda King was thanked for her work in researching and contacting the Poppy Project. Linda informed the meeting that the Poppy Project had lost Government funding which had been diverted to the Salvation Army because the SA dealt also with men and children who had been trafficked whereas the Poppy Project helped exclusively females who had been sex trafficked.

On request of the UWG the Chairperson had written a letter to the Inquirer expressing the UWG's concerns that there had been no initiative on a Social Justice Officer even though a resolution had been passed at the GA.

Correspondence had been received from Derek McAuley, Chief Officer of the GA indicating that there were budgetary constraints and also that he would incorporate the SJO into his own role.

5. UWG Bank

Dorothy Haughton had written to the RBS bank expressing concern they were supporting companies who produced cluster bombs. She had circulated a response from the bank which indicated their commitment to not invest in firms who dealt with cluster bombs. Amnesty International had not pursued this issue further so it could be inferred that they were happy with RBS's response to the issue.

It was agreed in principle that the UWG should change to an avowed ethical bank.
She would come back with proposals via email.

Action: Dorothy Haughton

6.

6.1 UWG Slot at GA

No proposed motions had been received for the GA.

However it was agreed to reserve a double slot of ninety minutes at the GA (to be held from 3rd to 6th April 2012) and organise a speaker from the Poppy Project in recognition of the concern expressed by the UWG towards sex-trafficked women, particularly in the light of the 2012 London Olympics when there would no doubt be an increase in demand for sex workers.

The Administrator would reserve the slot and organise the speaker. She would request that the slot should not clash with the Women's League.

Action: Anne Bodman

It was agreed that the Women's League would be notified in order to boost collaboration and awareness.

Action: Anne Bodman

6.2 UWG delegate at 2012 GA in Keele

It was proposed by Maggie Davies, seconded by Linda King and unanimously agreed that Angela Maher would be the 2012 UWG delegate.

The delegate duties comprised of;

Reporting back in writing to the UWG , attending meetings, voting, speaking if necessary and carrying the UWG banner, and also organising the table and display.

There would also be a requirement to liaise and generally act as a host to our speaker.

Dorothy Haughton would provide advice as she had been last year's delegate.

Action: Dorothy Haughton/Angela Maher plus Steering Group

6.3 Steering Group

Sheila Jones had previously indicated that she wished to step down from the post of Chairperson. The Group thanked her for all her effort and hard work over the years she had been Chairperson.

One nomination for Chairperson had been put forward and it was unanimously agreed that **Chris Thompson** would be appointed as the new Chairperson.

The following appointments were all agreed unanimously:

Administrator – Anne Bodman

Membership Secretary – Dorothy Haughton

Newsletter Editor – Danielle Wilson

Treasurer – Dorothy Haughton

The UWG wished to thank Stephanie Ramage who had stood down as Treasurer after a number of years in the post. She had taken over at a crucial juncture and had provided a most valuable service to the Group.

7. Treasurer's Report

The report was circulated and showed a balance of £1605.27 at the bank.

The report was unanimously accepted. (Proposed by Barbara Smith, seconded by Helen Parsons).

It was agreed that the Conference organiser would be reimbursed receipted expenses and also receive one payment of 50% of the Conference Fee. (Voting 23 For and 4 abstentions. Proposed by Barbara Smith and seconded by Anne Bodman).

It was also unanimously agreed to pay for outside speakers to the Conference. This could be in the form of expenses and/or fees. Agreement with the Steering Group would first be required. (Proposed by Sue Cooper and seconded by Sonya Richards).

It was also noted that Margaret Hamer had left an amount of money in her will to fund speakers for future conferences.

A donation from funds of £60 was agreed to be given to Nightingale staff in recognition of their work during the weekend.

8. Membership Report

Dorothy sought clarification on the schedule for membership. It was agreed that membership for the coming year would be sought in advance from October. This was in recognition that the Conference was a convenient collection point.

Members were reminded that annual fees were £15 and £10 for concessions.

It was agreed that the Newsletter would be only circulated to the membership and not also act as a vehicle for publicity.

The Steering Group would consider the issue of publicity. It was noted that publicity at the 2011 GA had attracted some new delegates to the UWG Conference.

Action: Steering Group

9. It was noted that the UWG weekend in 2012 would be Friday 26th, Saturday 27th October and Sunday 28th October. The date had been reserved with the Nightingale Centre.

The UWG weekend for 2013 would be at a similar date.

Action: Anne Bodman

There were a number of volunteers to organise the next Conference. It was agreed that the Conference organisers would be;

2012 Ann Peart and Sue Cooper :- The Power of Anger and the Work of Love.
2013 Cathie Masztalerz
2014 Kate Buchanan, Liz Roper and Angela Maher

Ann and Sue were asked to provide a poster so that the weekend conference could be advertised at the GA.
Action: Ann Peart and Sue Cooper

The Group were delighted that so many people had volunteered.

Juliet Edwards on behalf of the Group thanked Nicky Jenkins for organising this year's conference. The UWG recognised the hard work undertaken and the outcome which had been both entertaining and informative.

10. Send a Child to Hucklow

Sue Cooper read out a moving letter from a Head Master of a Liverpool school whose pupils had attended Hucklow under the auspices of the "Send a Child To Hucklow" Charity.

She distributed literature and stated she would email details of the web site.

Action: Sue Cooper

11. Any Other Business

Juliet Edwards gave a vote of thanks to the Conference Organiser and speakers and also the Steering Group for their work throughout the year.

Danielle asked for contributions for the Newsletter and asked for the poetry written during the Conference to be sent to her. She thanked Alison Patrick for typing up the creative contributions from the last conference.

Linda reported that sales of items such as scarves from Margaret Hamer's estate had amounted to the region of £450.

Ann Peart informed the Group of a Women's Unitarian Conference in Transylvania from 5th to 8th October 2012. The organisers were encouraging participation from the UK.

Liz Roper had kindly agreed to write up a report of the weekend for the Inquirer and Alison Patrick would write a report for our newsletter.

Action: Liz Roper and Alison Patrick

Sonya suggested it would be a good idea to agree two reporters at the start of next year's conference.

12. Date of next meeting

26th to 28th October 2012 at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.



UWG Contacts



Newsletter Production

Editor:

Danielle Wilson
280 Coast Road
Pevensey Bay

E. Sussex BN24 6NU

Tel: 01323-460 003

E: danielle@daniellewilson.com

Administrator:

Anne Bodman

12 Laurel Road

Chalfont St Peter

Bucks SL9 9SJ

Tel: 01753-889 431

E: bodmana@hotmail.co.uk



Membership Secretary &

Treasurer:

Dorothy Haughton

Mallard

Crickheath

Oswestry

SY10 8BJ

Tel: 01691-831 069

E: haughton@mallard99.demon.co.uk

UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME	
ADDRESS (LINE 1)	
ADDRESS (LINE 2)	
ADDRESS (LINE 3)	
ADDRESS – CITY/TOWN	
ADDRESS – COUNTY	
ADDRESS – POST CODE	
HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER	
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER	
E-MAIL ADDRESS (important for communications)	

Subscription Fee: £15 per annum (£10 concessions)

Cheque payable to: Unitarian Women's Group

Send to: Dorothy Haughton
Mallard
Crickheath
Oswestry
SY10 8BJ

haughton@mallard99.demon.co.uk – email for bank details to pay online



DIARY DATES

26-28 October 2012 - UWG Annual Meeting @ Great Hucklow

* * *

October 2012 - UWG Annual Subs due for 12/13 Please send to Dorothy Haughton, address in UWG Contacts box.

If you require a receipt, please send SAE with your payment.

* * *

3rd-6th April 2012 - General Assembly @ Keele University, Staffordshire

Please join us & help by keeping your membership subscription up-to-date. Membership year is October to September