



9-11 June 2017

Cambridge Corn Exchange
2 Wheeler Street, CB2 3QB

and

Cambridge Guildhall
Enter on Guildhall Street

YOUR TICKET

Register and collect your name badge at the registration desk, outside the Small Hall in the Guildhall. Registration is open from 14:00 on Friday, 08:30 on Saturday, and 09:30 on Sunday.



Humanists UK Convention

Convention ticket-holders are welcome to join us at any talk or panel discussion throughout the weekend.

Join us in the Guildhall for drinks from 17:30 on Friday, and our comedy evening from 19:00.



Humanists UK Convention plus lunch

In addition, please join us for teas, coffees, and a buffet lunch in the Guildhall, across the road from the Corn Exchange, on Saturday and Sunday. Lunch is served at midday in the Guildhall Small Hall both days. Coffee is served at 09:50 and 14:50 on Saturday, and 09:30 and 14:50 on Sunday.



Humanists UK Convention plus lunch and gala dinner

As well as the teas, coffees, and lunches detailed above, please join us for drinks in the Guildhall Small Hall from 19:30 on Saturday evening, for the Gala Dinner at 20:00. There is no designated dress code for the dinner; come as you feel most comfortable!

FRIDAY

Corn Exchange Auditorium

Guildhall

14:00

Registration opens
(Foyer outside small Hall)

17:30

Cash bar
(Small Hall)

18:30

Doors open

19:00

Comedy show begins

19:50

Break

20:15

Comedy show resumes

Cash bar
(Small Hall)

21:00

featuring



**Shappi
Khorsandi**



**Sophie
Scott**



**Kate
Devlin**



**Kate
Smurthwaite**



**Mister
Meredith**

SATURDAY

Corn Exchange Auditorium

Guildhall Large Hall

09:00

Welcome

09:10

Sex robots: the truth behind the headlines
Kate Devlin

09:55

Break

Coffee

10:15

Secrets and lies: the psychology of conspiracy theories
Karen Douglas

Religious attitudes to apostasy
Faith to Faithless

11:00

Break

Break

11:10

GMO journeys: how I learned to stop worrying and love genetic engineering
Mark Lynas

The future of Humanism
Young Humanists

12:00

Break

Lunch

13:00

Offering solidarity: the struggle of progressive Muslims
Sara Khan

Living and dying with early-onset Alzheimer's
Daniel Nabarro

13:50

Break

Break

14:00

My right to die
Paul Lamb

Atheists in foxholes: humanists in the armed forces
Defence Humanists

14:50

Break

Coffee

15:10

The rage: far right and Islamist extremism
Julia Ebner

LGBT+ experiences in 'faith' schools'
LGBT Humanists

16:00

Break

Break

16:10

Humanist issues in the next parliament
Alf Dubs

17:00

Close

19:30

Drinks reception and gala dinner

SUNDAY

Corn Exchange Auditorium

Guildhall Large Hall

09:30

Coffee

10:00

Welcome back

10:10

The work of the public affairs and policy team

11:00

Break

11:10

Aliens: science's search for extraterrestrial life
Jim Al-Khalili

Offence and safe spaces: where do we draw the line?
Atheist, Humanist, and Secular students

12:00

Break

Lunch

13:00

Robin Ince

13:50

Break

14:00

Coasts, currents, conflicts, and kings
Helen Czerski

Humans, music, and humanist music
The London Humanist Choir

14:50

Break

Coffee

15:10

Deep impact: engaging the public in the 21st century
Richard Wiseman

16:00

Close

SATURDAY

Sex robots: the truth behind the headlines

Kate Devlin

Saturday 09:10–09:55 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Our perception of the sex robot as an alluring, seductive, femme fatale is fuelled by years of influence from stories, books, and films. News headlines today tell us it's the end of human relationships. But what actually is out there today and where is the technology going? Can we – or should we – form emotional bonds with machines? Can they provide love, sex, and happiness for people who have none of those, or are they a threat to all that we hold dear as humans? This is a chance to embrace the topic of our artificial lovers.

Secrets and lies: the psychology of conspiracy theories

Karen Douglas

Saturday 10:15–11:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Was 9/11 an inside job? Is climate change a hoax? Was Princess Diana murdered? Millions appear to think so, disbelieving official explanations for significant events in favour of alternative accounts that are often called 'conspiracy theories'. In recent years, psychologists have begun to investigate what makes these 'theories' appealing to so many people. This talk will broadly overview what is known so far, and will outline Karen's own programme of research on the causes and consequences of belief in conspiracy theories.

Religious attitudes to apostasy

Faith to Faithless

Saturday 10:15–11:00 | Guildhall Large Hall

A panel discussion featuring those with personal experiences being brought up in extremely religious households and communities, and the journey they've been on to leave that all behind.

Aliyah Saleem, Audrey Simmons, Jonny Scaramanga, and Theo Howarth

GMO journeys: how I learned to stop worrying and love genetic engineering

Mark Lynas

Saturday 11:10–12:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

In the 1990s Mark Lynas was in the fields destroying GM crops. But in 2013 he issued a headline-grabbing apology and has spent the years since defending science and campaigning against his former colleagues. How did he change his mind, and what lessons does this have for other science controversies?

The future of Humanism

Young Humanists

Saturday 11:10–12:00 | Guildhall Large Hall

The world is changing. The political dimensions along which societies have aligned themselves seem to be shifting, fast. Alongside this turbulent political movement, threats to human rights around the globe, and a continuing narrative around 'fake news', what does the future hold for Humanism?

Richy Thompson, Julia Ebner, Andrew Dart, and Julian Webb

Offering solidarity: the struggle of progressive Muslims

Sara Khan

Saturday 13:00–13:50 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

In an era of extremism and identity politics, the activism and voice of progressive Muslims has never been more important. Whether experiencing abuse for opposing Islamist extremism while defending human rights, or experiencing anti-Muslim abuse, these are testing times for Muslims who seek to promote an inclusive, pluralistic, and humanistic outlook. Standing together in solidarity for our wider shared values has never been more critical.

SATURDAY

Living and dying with early-onset Alzheimer's

Saturday 13:00–13:50 | Guildhall Large Hall

Daniel Nabarro will be talking about how he has come to terms with his condition and how his positive attitude is helping him to adapt and have a good life.

Daniel Nabarro

My right to die

Saturday 14:00–14:50 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Paul Lamb

Atheists in foxholes: humanists in the armed forces

Saturday 14:00–14:50 | Guildhall Large Hall

Members of Defence Humanists serving in the Armed Forces discuss their experiences at home and overseas, on land, air, and sea, and how being a humanist has helped them in their journeys.

Sqn Ldr Emily McCullouch, Lt Cdr Craig Jordan, Flt Lt Robin Crosse, and Flt Lt Ruth Staton

Defence Humanists

The rage: far right and Islamist extremism

Saturday 15:10–16:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

The early twenty-first century has been defined by a rise in Islamist radicalisation and a concurrent rise in far right extremism. This book explores the interaction between the 'new' far right and Islamist extremists and considers the consequences for the global terror threat. Julia Ebner argues that far right and Islamist extremist narratives - 'The West is at war with Islam' and 'Muslims are at war with the West' - complement each other perfectly, making the two extremes rhetorical allies and building a spiralling torrent of hatred - 'The Rage'. By looking at extremist movements both online and offline, she shows how far right and Islamist extremists have succeeded in penetrating each other's echo chambers as a result of their mutually useful messages. Based on first-hand interviews, this book introduces readers to the world of reciprocal radicalisation and the hotbeds of extremism that have developed - with potentially disastrous consequences - in the UK, Europe and the US.

Julia Ebner

LGBT+ experiences in faith schools

Saturday 15:10–16:00 | Guildhall Large Hall

A lively discussion on faith schools and how their teachings on sexual morality impacted and continue to impact on LGBT+ children.

Chris Ward, Sarah Brown, Teddy Prout

LGBT Humanists

Humanist issues in the next parliament

Saturday 16:10–17:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

At the age of six, Lord Dubs was one of 669 Czech-resident, mainly Jewish, children saved from the Nazis by English stockbroker Nicholas Winton on the Kindertransport (Dubs' father was Jewish). Dubs learned how he had arrived in the UK when Nicholas Winton's story was broadcast in 1988. He later met Winton in person and campaigned for him to be knighted, which he was. In 1979, Lord Dubs was elected as an MP for Battersea South, and from 1988 to 1995 he was director of the Refugee Council. Among Lord Dubs' many achievements, he sponsored an amendment to the Immigration Act 2016 to offer unaccompanied refugee children safe passage to Britain amidst the European migrant crisis. His amendment, with some revisions, was eventually accepted by the Government after public opinion swung decisively in favour of supporting child refugees.

Alf Dubs

SUNDAY

The work of the public affairs and policy team

Sunday 10:10–11:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Richy Thompson, Jay Harman, Andrew Copson

Aliens: Science's search for extraterrestrial life

Jim Al-Khalili

Sunday 11:10–12:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Mankind has been obsessed with finding an answer to one of the most profound questions there is: are we alone in the universe? This talk is based on the best-selling book, edited by the speaker, that takes a look at the evidence for alien life and how scientists have been searching for it. To do that we must also understand how special life on earth is and how it began, what the building blocks of life are, and what the signatures are that would convince us that life exists elsewhere. It is also interesting to explore just why we are obsessed with creating aliens in our own image, and why so many – in Hollywood and beyond – are convinced that 'they' are already among us. And what if we do find evidence of life beyond earth? How will this impact world religions? The reason this subject is currently fascinating scientists as well, is that we finally believe we are closing in on an answer.

Offence and 'safe spaces': where do we draw the line?

The AHS

Sunday 11:10–12:00 | Guildhall Large Hall

To some, the last few years have seen a backlash to the idea of an open society. There are too many examples of religious or political beliefs being made immune from criticism or mockery in our public spaces. Whether it is newspapers calling those who question Brexit 'enemies of the people', or student union authorities acting as heavy-handed censors, unquestioning agreement is often preferred over raucous debate. With a number of students and experts, Atheist, Humanist, and Secular Students presents a panel on the critical importance of the open society as a humanist value – at university and beyond.

Hannah Timson, Jenny Bartle, Luke Dabin, Asher Fainman

50 minutes with...

Robin Ince

Sunday 13:00–13:50 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

Robin Ince is a comedian, actor, writer, and creator of the incredibly popular 'Lessons and Carols for Godless People', celebrating science and featuring scientists, musicians, and comedians. He presents *The Infinite Monkey Cage* with Brian Cox on BBC Radio 4.

SUNDAY

Coasts, currents, conflicts, and kings

Helen Czerski

Sunday 14:00–14:50 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

We live on a blue planet, and yet most of us rarely touch that blue. The oceans are remote, inaccessible without ships or scuba gear, but as this gigantic and dynamic reservoir of salt water flows around our planet, it has a huge effect on our everyday life. Our weather and climate depend on it, battles have been won and lost because of the way the oceans flow, and minor details of oceanography have huge consequences for trade routes and food supplies. Historically, the oceans have been a fundamental influence on human civilisations, and that influence continues today. This talk is about how this watery engine of our planet works, the historical consequences that are woven into our lives, the very different attitudes that human civilisations have had towards the oceans, and our future relationship with this vital feature of the Earth.

Humans, music, and humanist music

London Humanist Choir

Sunday 14:00–14:50 | Guildhall Large Hall

Teddy Prout is not only Director of Community Services for Humanists UK, he is also a talented musician and an experienced music teacher. In this session, Teddy discusses the importance of music to humans, starting with the question, 'Why do humans want music?' Having explored the role of music in human society, he asks whether there is such a thing as 'humanist music'.

The London Humanist Choir sing a selection of songs illustrating Teddy's points at various points during the talk – you'll hear lyrics from Shakespeare set to a beautiful, moving elegy by Ian Assersohn, African folk song, and more familiar songs by The Hollies and Fleetwood Mac. Alex Hall aids and abets on the piano, and the choir's Musical Director is Laurel Neighbour.

Deep impact: Engaging the public in the 21st Century

Richard Wiseman

Sunday 15:10–16:00 | Corn Exchange Auditorium

We are all constantly bombarded with emails, tweets, videos and Facebook posts. How is it possible to promote rational thinking under these circumstances? Richard has spent his entire career developing innovative ways of encouraging the public to engage with science, and will reflect on lessons learned and why he is optimistic about the future.

SPONSORS

We support pregnancy choices and trust women to decide for themselves. We treat all clients with respect and provide confidential, non-judgmental and safe services.



We aim to:

- Provide reproductive health care services that are responsive to the needs of those who might wish to use them.
- Promote the development of services that are accessible, effective, safe and confidential.
- Safeguard individual freedom and moral autonomy in making reproductive choices.
- Use our experience of abortion provision to contribute to the collective knowledge of those who provide reproductive healthcare.



The International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) is the global representative body of the humanist movement. Our vision is a Humanist world; a world upholding human rights are respecting human dignity. We work to build and represent the global Humanist movement that defends human rights and promotes humanist values world-wide.

We work at the United Nations and other international bodies to promote humanist values and policy. We campaign to defend the rights of humanists in hostile and discriminatory states, and to abolish all 'blasphemy' and 'apostasy' laws. And we work for the growth and development of the humanist movement worldwide.



Population Matters is a membership charity that addresses population size and environmental sustainability. We believe population growth contributes to environmental degradation, resource depletion and other problems. We conduct research, inform the public and advocate improved family planning and sex education, women's empowerment, smaller families and moderate consumption.

SPEAKERS

Jim Al-Khalili

Jim Al-Khalili OBE is a British scientist, author and broadcaster. A well-known science communicator, he is a professor of Physics at the University of Surrey where he also holds a chair in the Public Engagement in Science. He is a Vice President of Humanists UK, having been President from 2012 to 2015.



Jenny Bartle

Jenny Bartle has been involved with student humanism since 2008 when she joined the University of Bristol Atheist society. Following her degree she became president of the AHS, and has since served on its board. She is frequently recognised at Humanists UK conventions as the one with the frilliest dress. Jenny currently works as a software developer in Bristol.



Sarah Brown

Sarah is a trans woman who was, for seven years, the only openly trans elected politician in the UK. In 2011, she appeared on the Independent on Sunday 'Pink List' as the 28th most influential LGBT person in the UK.



Andrew Copson

Andrew Copson is the Chief Executive of Humanists UK and the President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union.



Flt Lt Robin Crosse

Flight Lieutenant Robin Crosse represents the Royal Air Force (RAF) on the Defence Humanists committee. Robin has worked to ensure the needs and interests of the non-religious are understood and catered-for within defence, playing a role in both the establishment of the humanist employee support network for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the staging of the inaugural Humanist Remembrance event.



Helen Czerski

Helen Czerski is a physicist, oceanographer and broadcaster with a passion for science, sport, books, creativity, hot chocolate, and investigating the interesting things in life. She currently works in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at University College London, and is a science presenter for the BBC.



SPEAKERS

Luke Dabin

Luke is a PhD student of Neuroscience and a Young Humanist. During his undergraduate degree he became involved with Birmingham AHS and has since gone on to volunteer with UCL AHS, as well as serve as Communications Officer and later Treasurer for the national AHS. He currently serves as an AHS board member.



Andrew Dart

Andrew Dart has a master's degree in Research Psychology and spent four years studying how pre-existing religious and paranormal beliefs literally affect the way we see the world around us. He is the author of a beginner's guide to skepticism and a science book for children. He works as a support technician for a software company where he spends as much of his day combating bad logic as he does technical issues.



Kate Devlin

Dr Kate Devlin is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computing at Goldsmiths, University of London. She works in the fields of Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), focusing on cognition, sex, gender, and sexuality, and how these might be incorporated into cognitive systems such as sexual companion robots. She was Co-Chair of the widely reported 'Love and Sex with Robots 2016' and ran the UK's first sex tech hackathon. Kate is a campaigner for gender equality and is involved in national initiatives to improve opportunities for women in tech.



Karen Douglas

Karen Douglas is a Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Kent. In addition to conducting work on the psychology of conspiracy theories, she is involved in projects examining sexism in language, the influence of sexist ideology on attitudes toward pregnant women, and the psychology of internet behaviour.



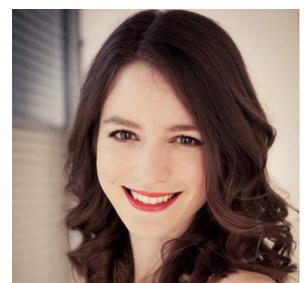
Lord Alf Dubs

At the age of six, Lord Dubs was one of 669 Czech-resident, mainly Jewish, children saved from the Nazis by English stockbroker Nicholas Winton on the Kindertransport (Dubs' father was Jewish). Dubs learned how he had arrived in the UK when Nicholas Winton's story was broadcast in 1988. He later met Winton in person and campaigned for him to be knighted, which he was. In 1979, Lord Dubs was elected as an MP for Battersea South, and from 1988 to 1995 he was director of the Refugee Council. Among Lord Dubs' many achievements, he sponsored an amendment to the Immigration Act 2016 to offer unaccompanied refugee children safe passage to Britain amidst the European migrant crisis. His amendment, with some revisions, was eventually accepted by the Government after public opinion swung decisively in favour of supporting child refugees.



Julia Ebner

Julia Ebner is a Policy Analyst at Quilliam. Her research focuses on EU terrorism prevention initiatives and counter-extremism policies in the UK, France and Germany. She co-authored 'The EU and Terrorism: Is Britain Safer In or Out?' and contributed extensively to the EU-funded TERRA policy advice report as well as research projects for FATE (Families Against Terrorism and Extremism) and the Kofi Annan Foundation.



SPEAKERS

Asher Fainman

Asher Austen-Fainman is a student, the president of Goldsmiths University Atheist, Secularist and Humanist society, a co-founder of the #Right2Debate free speech on campus campaign, an intern for Humanists UK, an activist, and occasional writer.



Jay Harman

Jay Harman is Humanists UK's Education Campaigns Manager. He works on all Humanists UK's education issues, from school admissions and discrimination in employment, to religious education, collective worship, and evolution vs creationism in schools. Jay is on the steering groups of the Accord Coalition for inclusive education and the Fair Admissions Campaign, and is a representative of Humanists UK at the Religious Education Council for England and Wales.



Theo Howarth

Theo Howarth was raised as a Jehovah's Witness. He has spoken out about having to resort to living a double life due to his sexuality. He has also spoken about the mental health crisis that can arise when you seek to leave the religion of birth and the controlling and punitive community that often accompanies it.



Robin Ince

Robin Ince is a comedian, actor, writer, and creator of the incredibly popular 'Lessons and Carols for Godless People', celebrating science and featuring scientists, musicians, and comedians. He presents *The Infinite Monkey Cage* with Brian Cox on BBC Radio 4.



Lt Cdr Craig Jordan

Lieutenant Commander Craig Jordan joined the Royal Navy in 1996 in the Engineering Branch. Following a broad range of roles in various locations, including working within NATO Headquarters, he now finds himself specialising in Cyber Security Risk Management for maritime platforms. He is currently based at MoD Corsham in Wiltshire. He has been an active member of Defence Humanists since 2014 and is keen to highlight and represent the rights of the non-religious across the MoD.



Sara Khan

Sara Khan is an award winning human rights and counter-extremism activist and author of the best-selling book *'The Battle for British Islam: Reclaiming Muslim Identity from Extremism'*. Having worked and actively campaigned for women's rights within Muslim communities for over 20 years, Sara co-founded Inspire in 2008 to empower Muslim women, raise awareness of their inequalities and challenge the growing extremism often justified in the name of Islam.



SPEAKERS

Shappi Khorsandi

Born in Iran in 1973, Shappi Khorsandi and her family were forced to flee from Iran to London after the Islamic Revolution, as her father had written satirical poetry. She is a comedian, performs stand-up, and has appeared on many radio and television shows, including Shappi Talk and Question Time. She became President of Humanists UK in January 2016.



Paul Lamb

Paul is in his early sixties, and was severely immobilised after a road accident in 1990. He says that in the past 27 years he has endured a life which is monotonous and painful, and he fears it may one day become unbearable. For when that time comes, he wants to be able to get assistance to die. In 2013–15, he took his case to the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, and European Court of Human Rights, in order to establish that he should have such a right. He will speak about his experiences, and the ongoing campaign for assisted dying in the UK.



Mark Lynas

Mark is the author of several books on the environment, including *High Tide*, *Six Degrees*, and *The God Species*. He is a frequent speaker around the world on climate change, biotechnology, and nuclear power, and was climate change advisor to the President of the Maldives between 2009 and 2011. He now works with the Cornell Alliance for Science, funded entirely by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He is a member of the advisory board of science advocacy group Sense About Science, and campaigns on behalf of various pro-science causes.



Sqn Ldr Emily McCullough

Squadron Leader Emily McCullough joined the RAF as an Air Traffic Controller in 2007, after working within the NHS and as a teacher. She has served operational tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East. As Chair of Defence Humanists, Emily is proud to work with the MoD towards greater inclusion for all, particularly the non-religious.



Mister Meredith

Mister Meredith was trained at Birmingham University in Music, Drama and Dance and worked in all three fields before combining them in the marvelous smorgasbord of cabaret, when he began talking about himself in the third person. In London you can mostly find him at Proud Cabaret as one of their resident comperes or The Coach and Horses hosting his regular pub singalong. However he still finds time to travel to other cities either as an act or compère and is equally at home in large theatres and intimate nightclubs.



Daniel Nabarro

Daniel Nabarro studied Electrical Sciences at Clare College at the University of Cambridge, and has an MBA from Simon Fraser University. As an entrepreneur he has founded a number of tech startups and other businesses, most recently figleaves.com, a lingerie retailer with more than 200 employees. He is now retired, and is co-founder of Nip in the Bud, a charity aiming to improve the lives of young people with mental health disorders. He will speak on 'Living and Dying with early onset Alzheimers'; he was diagnosed three years ago.



SPEAKERS

Laurel Neighbour

Laurel is a soprano and conductor based in London. She read Music at the University of Nottingham, where she first studied conducting. She came to London in 2012 to start a choral scholarship at St Martin-in-the-Fields and quickly started picking up choirs, including the London Humanist Choir, Northbank Community Choir and Kings College Staff Choir. She has conducted at Sangerstevne Choral Festival at Cadogan Hall, the World Humanist Congress at the Sheldonian in Oxford, and at the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham in 2016.



Teddy Prout

Teddy is Humanists UK's Director of Community Services, responsible for the strategic development of the services Humanists UK offers in education, pastoral support, ceremonies, and other aspects of support in the community, in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. He is also responsible for development of research and pilot projects to ensure the secure future and promote the value of the services Humanists UK provides.



Aliyah Saleem

Aliyah Saleem was raised as a Muslim and studied in fundamentalist Islamic schools for 6 years before leaving Islam. She is a co-founder and the Vice Chair of Faith to Faithless and secular education campaigner.



Jonny Scaramanga

Dr Jonny Scaramanga grew up as a charismatic Christian and completed his PhD about the experiences of students in Accelerated Christian Education schools. He has spoken on this subject on *Newsnight*, *the Jeremy Vine Show*, *The Big Questions*, and various BBC local radio stations.



Sophie Scott

Sophie Scott is head of the Speech Communication Group at University College London's Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience. She researches the neuroscience of voices, speech, and laughter. In our Friday evening comedy event, Sophie will not just make us laugh, but explain why we do.



Audrey Simmons

Audrey Simmons was raised as a Seventh Day Adventist Christian and attended a Church of England school. She is a humanist celebrant and a member of the London Black Atheists.



SPEAKERS

Kate Smurthwaite

Kate Smurthwaite is an award-winning high-brow feminist atheist comedian recently deemed too controversial for Goldsmiths College! A writer for BBC3 series *The Revolution Will Be Televised* as well as *Have I Got News For You*, she has appeared on over 700 TV and radio shows often discussing issues around religion and secularism. Her show is about language and free speech from Frankie Boyle to Raif Badawi.



Flt Lt Ruth Staton

Flight Lieutenant Ruth Staton is a surgical specialist with the Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service. As a flight nurse she has completed nursing missions across the globe and routinely works in acute clinical settings whilst in the UK. An active member of Defence Humanists and a funeral celebrant with Humanists UK, she was the ceremonial lead for the first MoD-supported Humanist Remembrance event in 2016. Ruth works on Defence Humanists' pastoral support subcommittee and is committed to exploring how Humanist Pastoral Support can benefit Defence.



Hannah Timson

Hannah is the current President-elect for Atheist, Humanist, and Secular Students and the outgoing President of Exeter University's AHS. Heading into her third year on Exeter's Theology and Religion BA degree course, Hannah has a fierce interest in helping communities, of all faiths and none, to work together to achieve common goals through open conversation and engagement. She is also active in challenging religious privilege and issues of free speech within our universities.



Richy Thompson

Richy Thompson is the Director of Public Affairs and Policy at Humanists UK. He works on issues from across the Humanists UK's public policy remit. From May 2011 to February 2015 he was Faith Schools and Education Campaigns Officer, and before that he was the President of the AHS. Richy is Treasurer of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, member of the advisory group of the Sex Education Forum, and on the steering groups of Voice for Choice, the Accord Coalition for inclusive education and the Fair Admissions Campaign.



Chris Ward

Chris Ward is the Chair of LGBT Humanists and grew up in the Catholic education system. At Lib Dem Conference this year, he proposed a radical amendment to their Faith Schools motion to ban religious instruction in all state schools.



Richard Wiseman

Richard Wiseman is Professor of the Public Understanding of Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire. He has written several best-selling popular psychology books that have sold more than 3 million copies worldwides. His YouTube channels have more than 2 million subscribers and more than half a billion views between them.

