

CHUM update

Looking Forward



I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer months in some way or another – we certainly enjoyed some warmer and drier weather than last year which perhaps helped some of us get outdoors more.

The days are now starting to draw in – there’s definite signs of seasonal change - autumnal colours and smells already – geese on the move and we anticipate the changing days ahead – an exciting time of year.

Again – a big welcome to all new and existing subscribers to this random update.

Please consider joining us at any of our Meetups – if you have an idea for something you’re interested in specifically, please let us know and others can see if they can help make your idea a reality.

Reach out via WhatsApp to get started – we have a small but interactive WhatsApp Community with several “sub-groups”.

Let’s continue to grow our Humanist community together!

Regular Meetups Over Summer and going forward!

Our regular meet ups continued over the summer. Details of all of these are on our website and on Meetup. It is really helpful to register on Meetup if possible as this has visibility and encourages others to come along. You can of course also register through our website.

For the Thinking Out Loud and Monthly Discussions, spaces are quite limited so it is very useful if you can register if you’re attending.

Social meet ups at the Pied Bull in Chester continue to offer a relaxed and easy way to connect and enjoy conversations and catch ups on a range of topics. These social evenings are held on the third Tuesday each month starting @ 7 pm.

The **Thinking Out Loud** guided reading sessions continue apace – the group is nearing the conclusion of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* – it has proven a

bountiful source of topic for discussions. The sessions take place at Storyhouse on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month (10.00 am. To 12 midday)

The **monthly discussions** have also continued.

These started in June 2024 when we met up in the Pied Bull pre-general election to discuss what we wanted from politics – the world has certainly changed politically since then but perhaps the things we all want haven't so much?

We moved to a regular slot at Storyhouse and hold discussions on the evening of the first Monday of each month.

Topics have included, How we judge the past – Is it the Art or the Artist that's important Do we have a special relationship with the U.S.A? Are manners important? Do we have free-speech? Do we have Free Will? How does generational influence work today? Is AI a Liberator or Gaoler? The effect of Patriarchy on Women today.

Please join us at one of these regular events and look out for ad-hoc events too.

Ruthun Walk and Talk – 14th September 2025

Sunday 14th September **RHUTHUN FIELD TRIP – CAEL TAITH MAES**

Meet at 10.30 am, Park Road Car Park, LL15 1EB, What3Words counts.usual.clenching £4 all day.

From Mold take the A494 to Rhuthun. On entering Rhuthun (beware 20 mph speed limits!) At the first large roundabout (Tesco corner) take the 3rd exit along Park Road, the car park is 500m on the left immediately before the Texaco petrol station.



Join us for a gentle historical stroll around the beautiful hilly town of Rhuthun, North Wales, 24 miles from Chester. You will find many original timbered buildings dating from the 15th century. Nant Clwyd Y Dre House has parts Mediaeval, Jacobean and Georgian!

Explore secret alleyways, footpaths and Ruthin Castle, where we stop for refreshments after exploring the old castle ruins built by Edward the 1st. Find the `Maen Huail Stone`, according to legend where King Arthur beheaded Huail, his rival in love and war.

Turn around to the Old Courthouse where you will see remains of the Gibbet where Friar and religious dissident Charles Mahoney was executed in 1679. Only 152 years later, Charles Darwin stayed here at the Castle Hotel.

We then walk across Cae Ddol fields, where we can kick our heels along the shingly banks of the Afon Clwyd, This is where our walk concludes. Those who want to stay on, we will then visit Ruthin Gaol! A Pentonville style prison, open to visitors (£9 for adults). Or walk back into town for an afternoon on the square and perhaps a visit to a local pub.

The walk should take 2.5 to 3 hours.. depending how long we stay taking refreshments at the castle or looking for Peachicks and ghosts!

Gardening: The group maintains a garden area in Grosvenor Park and there are meetups in Grosvenor Park – usually arranged through the gardening sub-group on WhatsApp. The small circular bed contributes in a small way to the enjoyment of visitors to the park. Gardeners share good conversation with people walking through admiring the blooms and the work. There is a separate working group page within our WhatsApp community. The gardening sessions are a lovely way to meet up – we invariably go to enjoy a hot or cold beverage and sometimes a slice of cake!



Above The Chester Humanists sign returns to the garden (July) and Below – a quick late August snap by John after Alan's hard work



About Chester Humanists (CHUM)

Chester Humanists are a community of people living in or around Chester and local environs – mainly North West Cheshire, North Wales, Wirral and some parts of Merseyside.

We enjoy meeting socially and to explore thoughts and discuss matters – enjoy trips etc.

Adopting a loose organisational structure, the group has been able to offer a range of activities to appeal to different people sharing a humanist outlook. The group meets regularly in different ways (please see above).

Members have been active in the community offering celebrant services, pastoral support, visiting schools and participating in discussions on curriculums for local schools with regard to education on world views, beliefs and religion.

Our Community Care & Support

Our community thrives on connection and compassion. If you or a fellow Humanist is facing tough times, please reach out. We have members trained in pastoral care ready to offer support in true Humanist spirit. Contact Sarah at sarahljones2021@gmail.com, who, as her schedule allows, will coordinate assistance. Sarah brings her expertise as a Humanists UK-trained Non-Religious Pastoral Carer, Mental Health First Aider, and her ongoing studies toward a Level 5 Diploma in Psychotherapeutic Counselling to our group.

Support Our Work

As a volunteer-run group, we rely on your generosity to keep our initiatives going. Please consider contributing to our funds if you are in a position to do so:

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Monies will be put towards maintaining the public garden area in Grosvenor Park, other group expenses and to the provision of more local activities and the promotion of humanist values.

CHUM are always looking for ways to strengthen our community and to provide opportunities to interact with each other and learn about life

If you are interested in helping something happen with Chester Humanists please get in touch! 😊 – we'll always find ways to make getting involved as easy as we can and there is always someone to support any activity/event.

Signposting: The group seeks to promote remains of the view that, rather than trying to replicate what other groups are already doing very well – groups like SciBar, Friends of the Earth, Merseyside Sceptics etc, we would instead seek to identify and promote events run by other local groups which may be of interest to humanists in the Chester area. Most posts are made through our WhatsApp community.

Contacts

There are various means of contacting the group/being part of the groups online community (which often spills over into “life”!). Please do get in touch if something appeals to you or you simply want to get in touch!

Please contact the group on chesterhumanists@gmail.com

Mailing List: We are still re-building our mailing list – newsletters are definitely random in terms of issue date – please encourage your friends to join the list via our website.

WhatsApp CHUM runs a small but active WhatsApp Community with various sub-groups. The community is quite interactive and many of the events etc are advertised and discussed here. Members also share information on local shows and other events – sometimes arranging joint visits. If you would like to join please email chesterhumanists@gmail.com

Website The groups website is <https://www.chester.humanist.org.uk/>

Facebook: You can also reach the group through Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ChesterHumanists> and we also run a private facebook group which allows free expression and where many of our activities are publicised and where people share thoughts.

Meet Up: <https://www.meetup.com/Chester-Humanists/> Please sign up to receive up to date information on our events.

And finally....

As ever a huge thanks to everyone who contributes to CHUM in different ways – organising and running events, taking part and coming up with ideas we do have a lovely, vibrant and supportive community which continues to grow and develop. 😊