



**SHH- A PARTNER OF HUK**

**WHAT'S COMING UP?**



**SOCIAL MOBILITY IN IN THE UK IS WORSENING-HOW CAN IT BE IMPROVED?**

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7.30PM. DISCUSSION GROUP. MEMBERS ONLY. 10 CHURCH LANE, SO17 1SZ  
LED BY MEG CAMPBELL**

**ASSISTED DYING. WHY, WHO AND HOW?**

**SUN MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 7.0PM, BARRY NEWMAN, PAVILION, RESIDENTS GARDENS, ABBOTTS WAY, SO171QP**

Barry is a retired doctor and ideally qualified to talk on this important and current topic. He qualified in Cape Town, South Africa in 1979, and in anaesthesia and critical care medicine in the UK in 1987. He worked as a consultant in anaesthesia, intensive care medicine and pain management at Poole Hospital between 1988-2021. He was chair and member of the hospital's ethics committee and has had a lifelong interest in moral philosophy. He is a member of HUK and of Dignity in Dying.

**THIS IS NOT BARRY NEWMAN! IT IS GEORGE VTH, WHO WAS ASSISTED TO DIE ON JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 1936 BY HIS PHYSICIAN LORD BERTRAND DAWSON.**

The king had been dying for some months towards the end. Dawson wrote in his journal injected (myself) morphia gr.3/4 and shortly jugular vein." These injections resulted in the the king a painless death and also to the morning papers rather than the "less

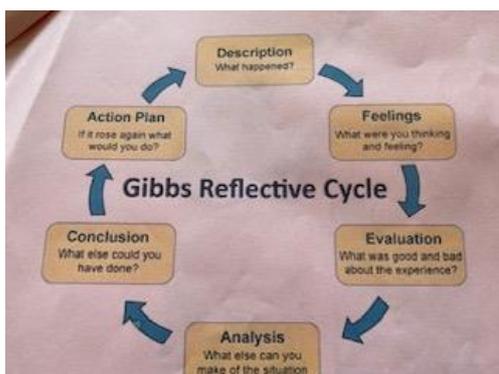


with a chronic lung condition and was coming "I therefore decided to determine the end and afterwards cocaine gr.1 into the king's distended king's death. According to Dawson he wished to give guarantee that the death would be announced in appropriate evening journals".

**SUN JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>, SOCIAL EVENT, PUB LUNCH FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO STOCKBRIDGE GARDENS**

Pub lunch at The Crown in Kings Somborne followed by a visit to the 5 gardens open in Stockbridge that afternoon in aid of National Garden's Scheme charities. Entrance to all 5 gardens £8. Contact Liz to register interest and receive details.

**RECENT EVENTS, MAR 16 DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL THINKING**



Alia Kahn led us in an interesting discussion on critical thinking. Perhaps we might simplistically describe it as a formalisation of “learning from experience”. But clearly for some people and in some professions, it has become fundamental to their lives. Getting into the practice of reviewing our activities, work decisions and life events, following the sort of reflective cycle shown above, which Alia presented to us, can be very valuable, but using critical thinking routinely can be a rigorous self- discipline. Alia assured us it becomes easier with practice! Critical thinking is self-guided, self-disciplined thinking which attempts to reason in a fair-minded way, trying to eliminate personal and social prejudices from conclusions and actions. **“People who think critically consistently attempt to live rationally, reasonably, empathically”.**

TFR

**MAR 20<sup>TH</sup> AGM FOLLOWED BY**  
**YELLOW DOOR’S WORK WITH THE ABUSED.**

Nicci King, CEO of Yellow Door, described the development of the charity since 1985 from a small collective of women dealing with rape crises to a well- respected organisation with 50 employees and many volunteers, working with victims and perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse, of all ages, male and female, to provide immediate assessment and support, ongoing counselling, and outreach educational preventative work, including in schools.

The 2021 Domestic Abuse Act has focused on a growing problem, acknowledging that abuse may not only be physical or sexual but also consist of psychological coercion. The Act’s provisions, including the creation of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, the statutory involvement of local authorities in providing help to the abused and certain legal modifications, should help to tackle a growing problem. Yellow Door has recently signed a 7 year contract with the local authority to provide services and Nicci expressed relief and satisfaction at this acknowledgement of their work and the provision of an ongoing financial base.

Nicci said that Yellow Door’s relationship with the police was good. However, nationwide, the press surrounding police relations with women complaining of domestic abuse has NOT always been good. Clare’s Law now allows police to disclose information about a person’s previous abusive offending to a victim or potential victim. It results from the murder of Clare Wood by a partner, well known to police for previous violent offending, The police had been unable, or unwilling, to intervene, and Clare’s life might have been saved if they had.

**Domestic abuse is rising and the statistics in Southampton are among the worst in the country.** Domestic Violence accounts for 30% of all violent crime in Southampton, and looking at a breakdown by area there is a clear relationship to deprivation. Could this terrible statistic represent high reporting and good services, or is it indeed a sad reflection on life in our city? Given our large ethnic population, is unreported domestic violence going on in those communities? Yellow Door is attempting to diversify, provides help in several different relevant languages and is building up relationships with different sections of our community.

**We were pleased to support Yellow Door who is just on our doorstep. Nicci enthused us. Their work is increasingly with younger age groups, 10% male, and they are working with victims, perpetrators, many who have been abused themselves, and with young people in schools, to safeguard, support and change behaviour patterns, so that these people have a better chance of decent relationships in the future.**

TFR

**APRIL 2ND BREAKFAST AT CHAIWALA**



Nine of us had a delicious, different, breakfast together. And a good chat. Recommended!



**ANDREW RUTHERFORD**, geneticist, author and broadcaster will take over from Alice Roberts as president of HUK from June.

## SECOND MEXICO MONARCH BUTTERFLY ACTIVIST FOUND DEAD

A second activist campaigning for the conservation of monarch butterflies and the woods in which they hibernate has been found dead in Mexico.

Raúl Hernández worked as a tour guide at a butterfly sanctuary in Michoacán state. His body, which bore signs of beatings and a head injury, was found two days after the funeral of Homero Gómez. Mr Gómez managed a monarch butterfly sanctuary in the same state and had received threats, his family said.

Raúl Hernández, 44, disappeared on Monday 27 January. He had left work as usual and was last seen at midday in a village called El Oyamel. His body was found six days later at the top of a hill in the El Campanario monarch butterfly sanctuary. Forensic experts said his body was covered in bruises and he had a deep wound to his head. An investigation into his death is under way.

Conservationists fear his death may be linked to that of Homero Gómez, who disappeared in the same area on 13 January. Mr Gómez's body was found in a well on 29 January. His family said that prior to his disappearance, the activist had received threats warning him to stop his campaign against illegal logging.

He was a tireless campaigner for the conservation of the monarch butterfly and the pine and fir forests where it hibernates. The sanctuary he managed opened in November as part of a strategy to stop illegal logging in the area, which is a key habitat for the species.

Officials initially said his body showed no signs of violence, but a post mortem examination revealed he had suffered a blow to the head before drowning in the well.

Mexico's murder rate has risen in recent years and official figures suggest 2019 had the highest rate ever recorded, with 34,582 recorded killings. Many are believed to be carried out by criminal gangs who kill anyone who could interfere with their illegal activities, which range from drug and human trafficking to extortion, logging and mining.

BBC NEWS 2020



Mourners at the activist's funeral

## MONARCH

*For Homero Gómez González and Raúl Hernández Romero*

*He worked among the pines,  
tapped the nails in gently,  
leaving the bark undamaged as  
he secured the notices calling for silence.*

*Across the sky in Canada the atmosphere  
thickens, roiling rust-coloured,  
as the fourth generation of an entire species  
tracks some unlocated compass across  
the continent, returning to the oyamel forest,  
where they have never been.*

*For two weeks there was no sign of him.  
His wife went out among the sacred trees.  
At each sign she stopped to touch the words:  
'guardia silencio'. She called out his name.*

*I do not know if he cried out when  
his attacker hit him on the head, when  
he fell to meet his own shadow, when  
they threw his body into the pond.*

*As long as there are oyamel in Michoacán  
the butterflies will come. The thin air will  
quicken, your  
heart will beat faster as the waterfall of wings  
begins and  
branches, trunks, the forest entire – all is  
clothed  
in ancestral majesty.*

*Here is what you have waited for. Only here.*

**DEBORAH GEARING**

## FAITH SCHOOLS AND THE GOVERNMENTS WHITE PAPER "OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL"

The government has issued a new white paper on education, the first since 2016. Looking at the reactions of various educational bodies to the paper on line, what strikes someone who is not an educationalist and who no longer has children in the system, is the wide variation of either approval or disapproval.

What was also striking is the absence of any comment among the reactions on the points that Liz Mizon was making in the letter she sent to local MPs and which we circulated to our membership earlier this week.

Dear

Dear

I am writing to you on behalf of Humanists including members of South Hampshire Humanists who live in your constituency.

We are concerned about the possible increase in the number of religiously based state funded schools likely to result from the White Paper "Opportunity for All" presently going through parliament. It looks as if the paper will give religious groups increased control of our schools and thus damaging social cohesion and increasing discrimination.

Promoting social cohesion in our communities must surely be the responsibility of all politicians. As we have seen in Northern Ireland, dividing children by the religious beliefs of their parents can lead to suspicion, ignorance, fear and even violence. In multi-cultural Britain where over 50% of adults profess no religious belief and where church attendance is very low it is surely the time to educate our children together and not use state funding to promote religious beliefs.

The White Paper proposes all schools becoming part of multi academy trusts, many of which are faith based. The costs of setting up new trusts will be supported for religious organisations but not for those from secular communities. This seems irrational and discriminatory, and therefore should not be acceptable.

Indeed families wanting a secular education for their children especially in rural areas are likely to have even fewer opportunities than they do now to find a secular school. This is because church run diocesan trusts are likely to be the only supported and established trusts available.

We urge you to do what you can to ensure "Opportunity for all" means just that. **This should include a secular education for all who want it.** Providing state funding for faith based schools is discriminatory as these schools have the power to select pupils, staff, and governors, and over aspects of the curriculum on grounds of religion. Though some of these schools are popular with parents it could be argued that is more to do with the background of the children attending.

**Surely it is vital children from all faiths and backgrounds learn about each other and what better way is there than being in school together in a religiously neutral setting.**

Yours faithfully,  
Elizabeth Mizon,

Chair of South Hampshire Humanists

([liz.mizon@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.mizon@btinternet.com))

HUK says

*We aim for a secular state guaranteeing human rights, with no privilege or discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, and so we campaign against faith schools, and for an inclusive, secular schools system, where children and young people of all different backgrounds and beliefs can learn with and from each other. We challenge faith schools' admissions, employment and curriculum policies, as well as the privileged processes by which new faith schools continue to open.*



## ABORTION, A PERSONAL VIEW

Arguments on abortion have been simmering in America for as long as I can remember, but have come to the boil in the last few days with the leaking of a draft proposal from the American Supreme Court indicating they are likely to overturn their 1973 decision on Roe v Wade in which the Court ruled that **the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction.**

### What do I feel about abortion as a woman, a mother, a Humanist and a retired doctor?

I don't like it. But I accept it is necessary sometimes, and I also accept that I have no right to impose my views on another woman or make judgements on her choice. And anyway, how can I know what was in her heart when she made that decision? I also think women are vulnerable as hostages of their reproductive function and still disadvantaged compared to men.

I think we fool ourselves, or perhaps seek to comfort ourselves, when we arbitrarily define life as starting at a certain stage of pregnancy. With the "quickening" perhaps? At x number of weeks? For me life starts at conception. So from then on we are dealing with two human beings – the mother and the child she is carrying. They both have rights to be considered.

When we decide to terminate a pregnancy because it is the result of rape or incest; because it would disastrously impact on the mother's life or health or because the baby is shown to have a significant abnormality, I think we are making a decision to take another human life. I think humans are justified to make that decision, but it is still an enormous one.

So I want to be sure that girls and boys in our highly sexualised society are educated from the word go to understand how easy it is to get pregnant and about contraception and relationships. Sex education and contraception must be readily available, even without parents' consent. Using abortion because contraception has been sloppy begins to strain my rationality and liberal views. But while we might pass judgement on an action, we have no right to judge the person who acted. We have no idea what factors in their lives have brought them to that point. TFR

The editor would welcome your views on this topic to open a discussion.

## SHH CONTACTS

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## IF YOU NEED TO FIND A HUMANIST CELEBRANT Go to Find a Celebrant- Humanists UK

This site will allow you to choose which category of celebrant you need and to enter your postcode. It will then provide a current list of approved celebrants servicing your area

