

Bits and Pieces . . . and please keep them coming in!

Here is your 4th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

**MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Unitarian New Meeting Church, Birmingham, 25th July 2009, 10.00 a.m.**

Secretaries of all congregations and affiliated organisations of the MUA have been sent a letter about this meeting, which is to amend the Midland Unitarian Association's constitution, primarily because of the name change. You have also been sent a Proxy Form, to allow someone to vote on your behalf at this meeting. It is vitally important that this form is returned to me at the address below **as soon as possible**, so that the wishes of your congregation can be counted.

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**DARWIN EXHIBITION AT SHREWSBURY UNITARIAN CHURCH**

Shrewsbury Unitarians are having an Exhibition in the Church by Marcus Coates, to be opened on July 11th at 12 noon. It is an echo of the book by Darwin, *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*, and will include video and sound. The exhibition will be open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 12 noon to 4.00pm until August 8th.

The Church is also being used for an Enactment of the Darwin family attending a Service as part of a Darwin Walk, visiting places of importance to the young Charles, on the first Saturday of each month at about 2.00pm

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IT'S THE GARDEN PARTY / PICNIC SEASON

Many MUA congregations are planning to take advantage of the present fine weather to have a garden party or picnic in July. Evesham's is on Saturday 4th July; Oxford's is on Sunday 5th July; Birmingham's is on Sunday 12th July; and Warwick are having a Summer Barbecue on Saturday 4th July. Kingswood's Summer Fayre is on Saturday 18th July, from 2pm – 4pm, all are welcome. There will be stalls, a raffle, cream teas and a tombola.

The **Midland Unitarian Association Garden Party** is at **Kingswood on Saturday 1st August, from 2.30/3.00 pm**. The Kingswood congregation will be providing tea and cakes, for which a small charge of £2 will be made (profits to Send A Child to Hucklow). Tea will be at 4.00 pm. Bring yourselves, your families and some sandwiches!

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***MUA Publicity Workshop***

A highly successful Publicity Workshop was held at Birmingham New meeting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. It was well supported, with 24 members attending from 13 MUA Congregations. The Workshop was led by Sue Woolley, the MUA District Facilitator, using a laptop and projector to give a very professional presentation using Power Point slides. Sue started the proceedings by inviting everyone to respond when meeting a stranger in a lift who spots the chalice badge and asks 'What are Unitarians?'. The day was then divided into four sessions. The two morning sessions were led by Sue: 1) Publicity using people and buildings and 2) Producing a Newsletter. The first dealt with how to help visitors find your chapel, and then ensuring that it is attractive and welcoming. The second emphasised the importance of each congregation having a Newsletter both for the members and for informing visitors. Aspects of content, design, production and distribution were then discussed. The first afternoon Session 3) External Publicity was led by Guest Speaker Jim Corrigan who as well as being a member of the GA Executive Committee, is also a professional journalist. He explained how to write News Articles and Press Releases, the effective use of photographs and how to give a radio interview. The final session 4) Building & maintaining a website was again led by Sue who explained how to design and construct an effective congregational website designed to attract new members, and emphasized the importance of regularly updating it to maintain its impact.

**SANDY ELLIS**

If you have any contributions for the next *Bits & Pieces*, please send them to me at 5, Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN or via e-mail to [sue.woolley@virgin.net](mailto:sue.woolley@virgin.net). Thank you!