

# HUMANIST GROUPS

## NOT ALL HUMANISTS WILL GATHER WITH OTHER HUMANISTS IN ANY ORGANISED SENSE, AND THERE IS CERTAINLY NO OBLIGATION TO DO SO.

Many will get all the community they need from family, friends, work, local clubs, and through the many other ways human beings group together under shared interests and goals. However, there are around 50 local humanist groups in the UK.

### ANTHONY LEWIS, WINDSOR HUMANISTS

Having spent 30 years travelling the world working, I found myself working from home. I found this new existence fulfilling but isolating, and realised that I had never really made any friends in my local Windsor area. I missed being part of a community.

We decided to set up a humanist group in our local area. It's been a great success story for us personally as we have made some real, like-minded friends in the local area, who we would not have met any other way. It's also been a success in other ways: both of us feel more connected with the wider religious and political community through being involved locally with humanism.

Windsor Humanists are active members of the two local interfaith groups. We are part of an initiative to support the religious and non-religious to work together to help foster dialogue and friendship between different communities.



Through getting involved with Windsor Humanists, I feel much more connected to my local area and community in ways I could never have envisaged when I started this journey. Local groups go a long way to meeting the deep need within us all, as human beings, to belong.



### SARAH JONES, CHESTER HUMANISTS

Our members belong to our humanist group because it enables discussion and social engagements with like-minded people, something that many of us have struggled to find elsewhere. We are a supportive group of people and our conversations are important to us, because we share a similar worldview and similar values. This understanding creates a space for humanists to express their feelings or concerns, ask questions, and learn from each other. We hold monthly meetings, which can sometimes be a speaker on a defined subject or a general discussion evening, and we also host socials in pubs and family walks.

What is becoming more important to us as a group is our connection and involvement with our local community. We are the organisers for the Chester Great Get Together (a celebration of what we all have in common in remembrance of Jo Cox MP). We have just started a Death Café (a space for people to gather and discuss death with a view to helping them make the most of their lives).

We also have plans to deliver a monthly Sunday Gathering, which will offer an opportunity to connect with other humanists (but you don't have to be a humanist to come!) and enjoy a meaningful connection through music, poetry, and conversation.

