

Jenny for President

Hi, I'm Jenny Bartle, AHS South West Officer and former Bristol atheist, agnostic and secular society president, and this is my manifesto for the 2011 AHS presidency. Hope you can be bothered to finish reading!

Current Successes

As a presidential candidate, it is my task to identify the key things this organisation does, what it needs to improve, and new areas and directions in which to take it.

So firstly to mention the things that it does well. It is highly effective as a point of information. This manifests itself in several ways: the success we have had this year with finding new members; the well-attended conferences and events, which are a good venue for exchange of information; the website, which now includes extensive guides and speaker/film directories. These have been given sufficient attention in previous years such that it should be relatively simple for any new committees to maintain and continue to expand, as long as the officers liaise with members and use their initiative.

Regions

The new regional development scheme is showing promise, and the officers should be brought into even more important role. I would like to see dedication to shaping each region's local links. In this vein, I want introduce regional conferences, organised by the RDOs, so that people have better access to our events. Of note is our current plan to do a test run for the South-West and South Wales in October, the desire for which was prompted by the number of startup societies in the area which need supporting. The recent drive to write articles to university newspapers advertising the idea of an AHS society could also be a significant role for the RDOs and further increase membership, as it has already proved successful in sparking interest at new universities.



I promise to reduce the number of religiously fuelled murders performed by the committee

Campaigns

Recently our campaigns, such as the freedom of information requests, have been gaining momentum. There is still room to improve our campaign efforts, though. If we want to achieve things on a national scale, the AHS needs to set goals of its own, as well as supporting the campaigns of other national organisations. This organisation should aim to represent the voice of all atheist, humanist, secular and skeptic students on a national level, and in order to achieve this we need to be louder.

My opinion is that in order to achieve this we should write more. It is crucial that we get into student media, encourage everyone to write to their university newspapers, make sure people follow the campaigns of the AHS on their campus and making everyone aware of our progress towards our national goals. Depending on the committee, it may be good to try and introduce a Campaigns Officer this year.

Fundraising

Another important area which can be brought to the fore this year is fundraising. Avenues for this include contacting BHA beneficiaries, trying to get student donors, trying to make a profit on events, although this is probably a bad idea, since it will discourage attendance. Those are a few ideas, but I would hope that the treasurer would be able to bring more ideas to that role.

About me

Having presented my main aims, it is now pertinent to convince the reader that I am competent. My main atheist involvement has been with the Bristol university society (AASS), of which I was secretary then president. In that time I spearheaded many events which were innovative and sometimes very large, including running our first Reason Week, writing many new discussions and experimenting with events to see what could improve our attendance. This is the kind of experimentation



AASS win best society. Never been more chuffed

that I think the AHS could benefit from. I also contributed to AASS in a more formal sense, in that I took a large role in re-writing society guides, and evaluating and recording what we did in preparation for events. Our committee now has a very thorough body of information so that they do not need to worry as much as we did! Bristol won the AHS's award for best society this year, and I like to think that my leadership was an important reason for this, although due credit goes to my wonderful committee.

Finally,

In summary then, I have set out my intentions and have given evidence that I am a qualified choice of leader for the AHS. The societies that the AHS brings together are very important to me, and I really want to be given the opportunity to do as much as possible for them. I have the required amounts of creativity, charisma and insanity to make sure the AHS thrives, and I only hope that you want to see it grow in the same ways as I do.

P.S., the AGM is on my 21st birthday, so if you don't vote for me I will be all sad :<

