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**Labour Humanists: AGM 2015**

**Chair’s report**

It’s been quite a year! Sadly, we find ourselves in opposition again. However, with a new leadership team which is open to new ideas and will be opening up policy-making to the membership, there really is every reason for us to feel positive about the opportunities to influence party policy in the coming months. The huge influx of members and supporters to the party since the General Election also gives us a real chance of growing our own membership – vital if we want to have our voices heard and for us to become an affiliated socialist society.

Over the past year we’ve campaigned on faith schools, humanist marriage and free speech. For the first time, we were Welsh Labour annual conference, with a stand and a fringe event and lots of volunteer support. Over the next year we’ll want to grow our presence in Wales as well as at Labour-focused events and conferences. We have some money which we could spend on small events.

We’ve dedicated time to surveying parliamentary candidates and working closely with the British Humanist Association (BHA) to identify our supporters in Parliament – and we’ve got lots in the new in-take, including Clive Lewis MP who is the new chair of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group. We’ll be working to support Labour humanists in Parliament and also working with our sister groups from the other parties on our shared issues.

We also surveyed our members and supporters about what they think our priorities should be. Faith schools, human rights and equalities (including freedom of expression), and evidence-based policy making, came out on top.

We say goodbye and thank you to Adam Harrison as our Secretary, who was also a founding member of Labour Humanists. It’s fantastic that as our group is growing we now have a full executive team, joining our existing chair Naomi Phillips and our treasurer Julia Mundy. Welcome to:

* Tom Copley, vice chair
* Lee Stacy, secretary
* Paul Douglas, membership secretary
* Chris Theobald, officer

With a new Labour leadership team, a new Labour chair of the APPHG, a new Labour Humanists executive, and more Labour Humanists members and supporters than ever before, we have a great opportunity to help shape Labour to become more equal, ethical and secular.

Naomi Phillips

Chair, Labour Humanists

Monday 28 September 2015