



# E-NEWS



## The General Conference of the New Church **News**

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### May Council Meeting

**Zoë Brooks writes:**

Please note that the Council now will be meeting using Zoom on Friday 22 May. Any really urgent paper for consideration by the Council should be sent to me to arrive no later than Tuesday 12 May.

### Conference 28th to 31st July 2020 -

### Current Thoughts

**Judith Wilson reports:**

As you can see above, the Conference Council is meeting on 22nd May using Zoom (online video-conferencing software). One thing we will discuss is the AGM and Conference.

These need separating out in our minds as the Conference is not legally necessary. Some of the usual Thursday morning Agenda, and a few other things, must be done according to the law as we are a Charity and a Company. Zoe, our Company Secretary, will ensure that the AGM happens according to legal necessities and will inform us of the plans nearer the time. We can only cancel the social part. If the Hayes is open we have to either hold the AGM there at the appointed time or open it there at the appointed time and then adjourn to another location, as there is nothing in our Articles that allows us to cancel the AGM or postpone it. (If the Hayes is not open we have to follow this procedure outside, as close to the Hayes as possible.) The Government did say that companies would temporarily be extended greater flexibilities,

including holding AGMs online or postponing the meetings, but to date this has not been done.

The Conference Centre at Swanwick is currently planning to re-open on 1st July and they know they will have fewer people so assure us that social distancing can be observed. We can, therefore, plan to meet at the end of July in the usual way. Is this what you would like to happen? If we cancel with Swanwick there is a potential cancellation fee of about £12,500 although there seems to be the possibility of some negotiation.

It is, however, very possible that the Centre will not be able to open then, in which case we will not be able to meet as planned and there will be no cost to us.

An alternative is for us to plan a Zoom Conference with short sessions on different pre-planned themes offered each morning and afternoon for three days - with a choice of which ones to join.

If you would like the Council to hear your view of what should be done please send it by email to me ([judith.wilson@gcnc.org.uk](mailto:judith.wilson@gcnc.org.uk)) as soon as possible but certainly before the 20th May. We will not be able to please you all of course and I am sure that you understand. In the end it is for Council to make the decision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

## Online Quiz

### **Jenny Jones reports:**

On Monday evening, we filled our lounge with over 35 friends from all around the country ready to join in an "All Age Family Quiz". There were four rounds: Shot in the dark, Play your cards right, Balderdash and the "The conveyor belt challenge" from The Generation Game. Questions included "What is the UK's favourite biscuit?" and "What is a muckender?" (clue: the stem of a mushroom, a dirty handkerchief or a foul smell coming from a cave?)

Congratulations go to Rachel and Liz Clemmet from Derby New Church who scored a whopping 27 out of 46. They were delighted to be virtually presented with a small plastic trophy...

Rachel has said "Thank you for this auspicious accolade - it is likely to be the most positive exam result I will be receiving this year!!"

We were also honoured to be able to sing "Happy Birthday" to Alexandra from the Seaburn New Church who celebrated her 21st birthday that day too.



## A News Puzzle - Continued

**Revd Christine Bank writes:**

Following on from E-News 50, the illustration attached here is a clue towards the identity of the one person who saw.....



Illustration ©Noah Van Sciver from Johnny Appleseed published by Fantagraphics Books 2017



## Purley Chase Update

### The Purley Management Team reports:

Whilst Purley Chase has been closed there has still been a lot going on. New turf has been laid around the stump of the old beech tree and in the camp fire area. There has been a great clearing of brambles and undergrowth around the Alpha and Omega sculpture.

Inside the house Chris Woodhouse has completed the cupboard underneath the metal staircase to fire safety standards, which now allows for the storage of spare chairs and tables. Chris is fitting other fire doors, one to the cellar and gradually replacing the doors of the dorms. All these changes have been necessary since fire safety standards changed after the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Purley closed to guests on 15th March which means there is no income but day-to-day upkeep and longer-term maintenance still has to continue with no clear date for re-opening. In addition, the household team all continue to be employed and will be returning to work as soon as re-opening is possible as we realise that Purley won't be the same without familiar friendly faces.

As a charity, we rely on the generosity of the people who come here for Church gatherings, external events, as well as through donations. Without donations in 2020 we will struggle to maintain this special place.

If you would like to make a donation which goes directly towards Purley Chase Centre, you can send a cheque made payable to Purley Chase Centre and post to: 35 Cleeve, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 2QD.

Or directly into our bank account using the following details:

**Bank:** Santander

**Account Name:** Purley Chase Centre

**Sort Code:** 09-02-22

**Account Number:** 10899393

**Reference:** 'Your name'

If you are a taxpayer, we can claim an additional 25p from HMRC if you gift aid your donation. Please click the link to complete a gift aid declaration:

<https://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/gift-aid-declaration/>

**Gemma McLean adds:**

The Purley team provided me with some excellent photos taken at Purley recently, which I have created an online gallery for here:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/purley-chase-photos-april-2020/>

**Win's 100th Birthday****John Ford reports:**

Here are some photos I took when Win did a parade on her mobility scooter down the length of her road whilst all her neighbours came out and clapped and sang happy birthday. The road had been decorated with banners and balloons and two Northwest Ambulance Trust vehicles with six paramedics came and presented her with a card and flowers. One photo shows Win holding up her birthday card from HM the Queen of which she is very proud. Even the postman was thrilled to be delivering it as he had never delivered one before!







## **JOB OPPORTUNITY: Leader of Education**

**Swedenborg Open Learning Centre based at Wellspring House, Manchester**

**Part time 20 – 30 hours (full time equivalent 40 hours) Salary: £34,272 pro rata.**



### **Could you be our next Leader of Education?**

You will support people who want to explore their vision of ministry, responding to the individual training needs of those who want to use Swedenborg's teachings. You will have a special interest in supporting people who are called to reach out to others either through ordained ministry or other leadership, such as writing, workshop facilitation and worship leading.

- Have you an understanding of Swedenborgian spiritual ideas which you would like to share with others?
- Can you guide, support and teach those who are choosing a spiritual pathway, learning to love and reaching for their potential in terms of vision and purpose?
- Would working with and for SOLCe be a career step that meets your deeper values?

In this role you will be part of a team of tutors, trustees and volunteers and will be able to call upon the expertise of consultants to support your work. You will develop close and mutually supportive links with the wider New Church community. You will also work alongside a part-time Centre Leader for Wellspring House, which is developing as a spiritual resource centre for the Northwest region and beyond.

The current postholder, who retires at the end of this year, works 20 hours per week. SOLCe is looking for a new Leader of Education who will be ready to join us by 1 October this year and who will devote between 20 to 30 hours to the role. The exact number of hours to be negotiated, based on experience and skills.

**For job description, person specification and application form visit our website:**  
**[www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk](http://www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk)**

**Closing date for completed applications: 1 June 2020 at 9.00 AM**  
**Interviews to be held: Wednesday 17 June 2020**

Swedenborg Open Learning Centre, Wellspring House, 25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester  
 M26 1LE Registered Charity: 52998

March 2020