

The Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants

Supporting and developing leadership in RE and collective worship

From the Co-chairs...

Dear RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants,

Welcome to the mid academic year edition of the AREIAC newsletter. This term, AREIAC Exec has been working to finalise our conference and AGM which will be held in Coventry on 4th and 5th July; more details are in this newsletter. Once again, we held our termly reading group in March and our webinar on Adult Education was delivered by Justine Ball and Claire Clinton. This webinar has been recorded and placed on the website exclusively for members; essential viewing for all delivering training to teachers.

There are some interesting openings for AREIAC members at present, so we wanted to ensure you are aware of these. Firstly, AREIAC is represented on the Steering Group of the RE/RaW Infrastructure Project and applications are now being sought for the role of Lead Director of Regional Hubs (closing date: 16th March). The role is 46 days per annum (approximately 4 days per month) @£420 per day. Please find further details on the 'Opportunities' section of our website <https://www.areiac.org.uk/opportunities>. Additionally, information about phases 2 and 3 of the TWCF Worldviews Project can also be found on this section of the website for those interested in being involved in a team that creates and exemplifies one of the three frameworks (closing date for Expressions of Interest: 31st March). Further information can be found on the REC website here [REC announces exciting opportunity for curriculum developers - The Religious Education Council of England and Wales](#)

We hope that you have a successful second half of the school year and to see you at our first face to face conference since 2019 on 4th and 5th July!

This edition of AREIAC News contains:

- Remembering Sharon Artley
- AREIAC conference
- NASACRE update
- AREIAC member in Radio4 choir
- Salisbury RE conference

Best wishes

Julia and Justine

J Diamond-Conway

J Ball

Dates for your diary



Conference: AREIAC conference: 4-5 July 2022.

Save the date!



AULRE Conference: Thursday 12th - Friday 13th of May

Conference theme: "Religious education and social justice in a time of climate crisis"

Newman University - Birmingham

See <http://aulre.org/conference-2022/> for more details

RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

AREIAC member Paul Hopkins is currently engaged in research and development work on the use of 360 image and video in Religious Education, see film on how to make a 360 degree tour of your place of worship - <http://mmiweb.org.uk/360visits.mp4>. If you are interested in developing these kinds of idea then please contact Paul at paul@paulhopkins.org.uk.

Remembering Sharon Artley

22nd July, 1954 - 28th November, 2021

Sharon was a member of AREIAC, RE consultant and friend and colleague to many. Joyce Miller and Sarah Smalley remember her life and pay tribute to her memory.



It was 9 February, 2021, when Sharon Artley began the unenviable task of letting friends and colleagues know that she was terminally ill with pancreatic cancer.

There was the use of a little expletive as she talked but her key message was clear: 'je ne regrette rien'. There was no murmur of complaint, anger or discontent. She had had a good life, an interesting career, many friends, a happy marriage to a 'wonderful' man, and now it was all coming to an end. She accepted that. She also decided to accept the offer of 'mild chemotherapy', an oxymoron of a medical term, which would extend her life by a couple of months. Her motivation was not primarily to live a little longer in the hope that a miracle cure might be found in time; rather it was to give Clive, her gentle, intelligent husband of more than 40 years, time to adjust to the idea of life without her. It also gave her time to sort out her financial and legal affairs and, in true Sharon fashion, she set her mind to ensuring that everything was properly organised before she died.

Sharon joined AREIAC in the early years of this century when, after a successful career at Caedmon School in Whitby, she made the courageous decision to become an independent consultant, specialising in RE and IT. This was a time when some of us had never used a white board and were still a little proud of being able to send an attachment. Sharon was a country mile ahead: a real pioneer in the use of technology to improve the teaching of RE. Her clever play on words of her name became her brand: smartlydoesIT! (She was very good at cryptic crosswords, you won't be surprised to know.) In no time, Sharon became a key player (no pun intended!) working as an RE consultant with teachers and for local authorities, notably Hartlepool, and within AREIAC. She ran inspirational workshops for members at our annual conferences, she joined the Executive and she organised at least two conferences, including one in Durham. Her IT skills were matched by her enthusiasm for RE, her professional reliability, her straight-talking, her efficiency and her willingness to take on difficult tasks. AREIAC wasn't the only RE organisation to which she made a significant contribution - there was NASACRE on whose executive she also sat, and the RE Council whose unwieldy

website was transformed by her. Then there were major projects: Celebrating RE; the Sacred Space sector of Learning Outside the Classroom; the REsilience project where, with Alastair Ross, she was a lead mentor; the RE Quality Mark - all of these benefited from Sharon's skills and professional involvement.

Another area to which she was deeply committed was Holocaust Education where she made, again, very significant contributions. She was closely involved in the Holocaust Education Trust and Holocaust Memorial Day in the north of England. It was gratifying to learn that she was remembered by them on 27 January this year in a



ceremony led by the Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland to mark her 'enormous contribution'. As part of her contribution the Sacred Space project, she visited Beth Shalom and the National Memorial Arboretum, both of which affected her profoundly. She helped plan an event at Durham Cathedral in 2015 to mark the liberation of Bergen-Belsen and the role of the Durham Light Infantry in it. At a point when she was still considering having a funeral she chose some music and then questioned whether, as an agnostic Jewish person, it was appropriate for her to have Christian music. Her choice, reflecting her love of Baroque music, was from *Fire Burning in Snow*, recorded by Ex Cathedra. It is wonderfully powerful music and, in the absence of a funeral because she generously donated her body to medical science, it is music by which to remember her.

Those of us who managed to visit her in the last months of her life were warmly welcomed to a home filled to bursting with cards and flowers. She displayed every card she had received and frequently expressed her profound gratitude to everyone who had supported her in any way. She often said she was 'humbled' by the affection and generosity she received. But Sharon gave in equal measure: visitors were served her delicious home-made cakes and her genuine interest in and concern for other people and their lives continued unabated.

In retirement, Sharon developed her talents as a photographer of wildlife and some of us have her beautiful photographs adorning our walls. Many were taken close to her home in her beloved North Yorks moors: photography was an activity she could easily combine with her desire to remain close at hand as Clive's health deteriorated. It was a trip to the Masai Mara that had convinced her that she had real ability and, characteristically, she used it to benefit the community there with whom she built up a strong relationship. Her photographs, which captured the beauty and vitality of the wildlife she loved, were sold to raise money for them and even in the very last weeks of her life she was transferring funds to buy equipment and to contribute to their school.



Sharon had no siblings and she and Clive had no children together but what she lacked in immediate family she made up for in the number of her friends, all of whom will have their own special memories of her. One of the most outstanding qualities that Sharon demonstrated time and again, and that we most valued in her, was generosity. She gave liberally of her talents, her money and her time. She was extremely hospitable and a very good cook. She loved Ottolenghi's recipes and once received an email response from him, much to her delight. She contributed to her local community in a variety of ways: she edited the local magazine, she ran 'silver surfer' classes and she delivered medication to the vulnerable in the early days of Covid, before her own diagnosis. She loved music and sang in local choirs. She contributed to education nationally, including a considerable amount of pro bono work. At an international level, she supported the people of the Masai Mara.

But it is the individual acts of generosity for which many of us will remember her. One such occasion took place on a freezing cold day in Northallerton. She stopped to buy a copy of the Big Issue from two sellers. She didn't just exchange the usual pleasantries: she asked about their lives and learned that they were sleeping rough each night so as not to waste their money on transport costs home. She walked away,

straight into an Oxfam shop, bought two large fleeces and returned to the sellers. Their gratitude - one was in tears - was moving but Sharon dismissed it. She had a warm house, she told them, she could afford to do it. Perhaps one of the hallmarks of truly generous people is that they want no gratitude in return.

She might be a little surprised to know how grateful many of us are to her. Not only did she help us learn how to teach better and how to live in friendship, her untimely death and her willingness to share her last days meant that she also helped us learn how to die.

She will be remembered.

Jane Chipperton writes....

I met Sharon in 2007 when we were lucky enough to be part of the Imperial War Museum Fellowship in Holocaust Education Programme, led by Paul Salmons, which took place in Israel, Poland and Lithuania. This poignant study helped us bond and work on a number of projects over the years.

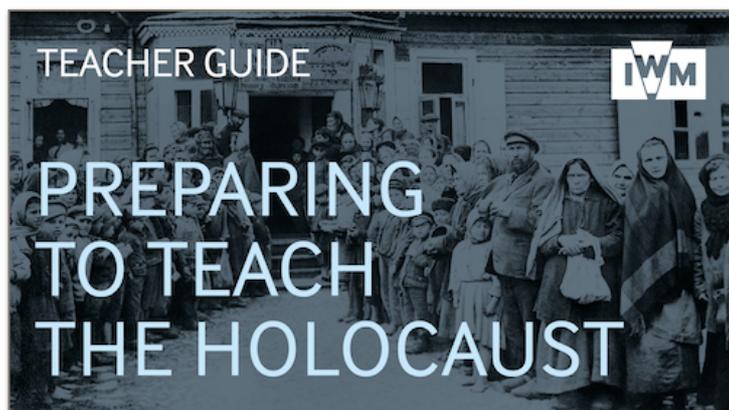
Sharon worked tirelessly in RE both in the classroom and as a consultant, lecturer, and trainer. She was webmaster and an assessor for the RE Quality Mark,

IT support officer for Celebrating RE (2011), a mentor consultant for the RE Council REsilience project and was webkeeper for the RE Council of England and Wales. She was a great friend of the professional organisations including AREIAC, NASACRE, NATRE and the RE Council.

She was a personal friend who demonstrated kindness, wisdom, humour and love over the years I have known her and in particular during the past year, since her diagnosis. I will miss her. One memory I have of Sharon is when we were at the 2014 AREIAC conference in Peterborough and we were joined by Team Sky! Sharon and I were star struck! We loved the set up on the buses with the washing and drying machines. We watched in awe as the Sky physios and chefs made their way into the hotel!

Mary Myatt writes...

Sharon was a dear colleague and friend. I have many happy memories of working with her on many RE projects. I knew her first as a fellow AREIAC member, then we worked together on the executive and she always provided a succinct analysis of the pros and cons of any new project we were proposing. She was funny and wise and many happy an evening was spent talking, debating and laughing over many meals. Sharon was an essential part of the team when Jane Brooke and I set up the RE Quality Mark. She had a particularly refined and discerning eye for good design and she had real flair in bringing those designs to fruition. Sharon then helped me with my ongoing professional projects such as advising me on my websites, casting an eye over my monthly updates and always finding something which I hadn't spotted, in order to make things better. She provided me with valuable advice and practical support for my writing. The front cover for 'Hopeful Schools' was suggested and supplied by Sharon. She also gave me the idea for one of my books: I was struggling to find a catchy term that would summarise the idea of incoherence: she suggested 'gallimaufry' and I immediately knew that this was exactly what was needed. We had some amazingly poignant and also very happy discussions about her attitude to her approaching death. She was witty, wise and wonderfully supportive and I shall miss her.



AREIAC Annual Conference 2022



The conference will take place on 4th and 5th July 2022 at the Windmill Village Hotel, Coventry

After two years of being unable to meet face to face, we are delighted that we will finally be able to hold our conference in Coventry and catch up with colleagues and friends – old and new! The Windmill Village Hotel has kindly held our booking over from 2020 and has been amazingly helpful throughout this challenging period. We are confident the staff will provide a warm welcome and make us feel safe and cared for throughout our stay. We do hope you will be able to join us for this year's AREIAC Conference where we will explore the plural and diverse nature of worldviews and the lived traditions of communities, families and individuals.

The Programme

The two day programme will provide lots of opportunity to engage with key note speakers and seminar providers including Martha Shaw, Justine Ball, Alastair Ross, Gill Vaisey and Debbie Tibbey. Listen and learn, debate and discuss, and reflect upon experiences of teaching, advising and training in religion and worldviews education. Sessions include an exploration of some of the less familiar worldviews such as the Bahá'í Faith, Sikhism and humanism. Meet with local faith representatives and consider how we can promote quality educational engagement with individuals and communities to enrich RE. We will have a panel of representatives to give updates on their organisations, including Kathryn Wright from Culham St Gabriel's Trust and Richard Kueh from Ofsted. The popular 'Show and Tell' slots remain to keep us up to date with new resources and projects. Exhibitor space is also provided for guests and delegates to display their resources and support materials. Delegates can choose to attend both days or either, on a residential or day delegate basis.

The Venue

The Windmill Village Hotel, Golf Club and Spa is set in beautiful surroundings on the outskirts of Coventry offering a wonderful space for the conference, and an opportunity to meet with like-minded colleagues to explore wonderful Coventry City on Sunday afternoon. Our main conference space will be in The Windmill Suite, with its windows and patio doors to two sides making it beautifully light and airy. There is plenty of space for exhibition tables at one end where our refreshments will also be served. If the weather is kind to us, we will be able to stroll out onto the beautiful terrace and seating area to take our refreshments, with stunning views overlooking the golf course and lake. For our Gala Dinner we will use the adjoining Pickford Suite with its own bar.



There is a lovely cosy Cellar Bar for Sunday evening food and drinks for those arriving that day. With a swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym, which can be used freely by delegates, this year’s venue will be a real treat. We will even have complimentary breakfast rolls for those arriving as day delegates or for those who wish to indulge in a second breakfast if you have stayed overnight!

Cost for members from £295 (residential) with daily non-residential rates available. There is a special student day delegate rate @ just £65 per day for Monday and / or Tuesday.

The 2021 / 22 Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals

The 2021-2022 Wallchart and the eCalendar are now available from Shap more details at:

www.shapworkingparty.org.uk

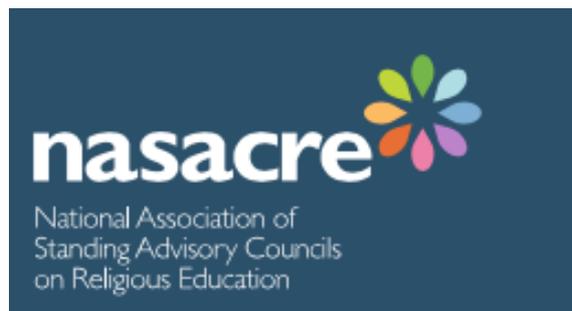
The best and most reliable calendar and essential addition to any RE department, staffroom or advisors or consultants office. Sample copies (21/22 calendar) available for AREIAC members contact:

admin@shapworkingparty.org.uk

quoting: **AREIAC SAMPLE**

NASACRE Update

NASACRE is the umbrella organisation that exists to strengthen local SACREs (Standing Advisory Councils for RE) and to support them in carrying out all their responsibilities, including their statutory functions. All of the SACREs across England are automatically enrolled as members of NASACRE, and most are also subscribers, which means they can access additional resources. Most SACREs are supported by a professional adviser or consultant, many of whom are also members of AREIAC.



NASACRE plays a major role in helping SACREs to support RE for example through liaising with the DfE as well as joining with NATRE, AREIAC, the REC and other bodies on national campaigns.

Recent projects have included redesigning the SACRE annual report template with the DfE to make it easier to complete, and to be analysed. A consultant has been appointed specially to carry out this role and see an overall summary document produced for the government annually.

Following on from the CoRE report and recommendations around SACREs, the ['Still Standing' Report](#) was commissioned by the REC through funding from CStG and in partnership with NASACRE. The report sought to investigate whether recommendations for SACREs contained within the CoRE report would help to develop/change SACREs work for 21st century. The project was based around a participatory action research method, and each SACRE that took part in the project started with answering two key questions:

1. What is working well within the present SACRE system?
2. What needs changing and how might this be changed for the better?

This report is available to read on the NASACRE website.

Another significant report from 2021 was the first ever national survey (through a Freedom of Information request to LAs) to assess [SACRE funding](#).

Annually, NASACRE holds a conference for SACREs, and this year's conference is scheduled for 23rd May in Birmingham, under the title 'Ambitious SACREs'. The first in person conference for two years will also herald the launch of NASACRE's new website. There will be an option for SACRE members to join the conference online for the keynote speeches, and there will be a choice of follow-up online workshops in June for all delegates.

I am the newest member of the NASACRE exec, co-producing the briefings and other communications, and I'm also a member of AREIAC, attending the meetings in London and the South-East where possible. My day job is with the Oxford Diocesan Board of education as RE adviser, and part of that role is advising three out of the nine local SACREs and sitting as C of E rep on a fourth.

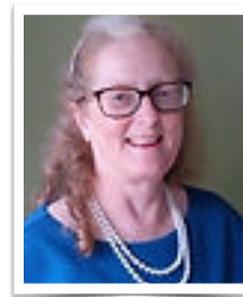
This is an exciting time for NASACRE as it continues to assist SACREs to fulfil their legal responsibilities, represent their common concerns to other bodies and provide an online training programme for members.

Anne Andrews

AREIAC member features in the BBC Radio 4 Today programme Choir

Lizzie McWhirter shares her experience

We always listen to the Today programme, and one morning I heard a piece fronted by Nick Robinson about a Today programme choir. I set to and applied, giving my choir CV of previous and present choirs, which of course included the Military Wives Choir (I am the East of England Regional Voices representative and serve on the MWC Welfare Committee), and also sent a photo and a music clip.



I heard immediately that I had a place in the choir, and later learned 500 had applied and 150 made it into this special choir. It was for one week only, namely Easter week, and there were to be only two one hour rehearsals , with MD Dr Carrie Grant OBE, vocal coach to the stars.

After the first rehearsal, I wrote mid morning to the BBC, saying how much I enjoyed the choir and benefitted from Carrie's great teaching. Today then asked if I could do an interview with them that afternoon, talking about music and choirs. I readily agreed as I was on leave all week. The researcher phoned first, then the senior journalist and by 3 pm I was Zooming with two other choir members.

I did share much about MWC, the choir I have been singing with the longest, and spoke about recording Remember, the Military Wives film, recording the film CD soundtrack, the Journey of the Unknown Warrior project and Choir 76. Much of this didn't make the final cut, but at least I gave a shout out for MWC and the Army and Navy club choir my husband James and I both sing in got a mention! Currently I am also singing in Gareth Malone's 3000 strong global Locus Iste choir, also online. Such an important part of our Lockdown lives!

If you are interested, do listen again on BBC Sounds! You can hear the five different voice parts. I'm on high harmony with all the oohs!!!

I also had a fleeting soundbite on pilgrimage on the BBC Radio 4 Sunday programme on 2 May. The production team call me the listener who keeps on giving! Can I encourage fellow AREIAC members to write in to the programme.... In the past many of our friends have appeared on the radio whilst we are listening and enjoying the first cup of morning tea of the day!!!



CREative and REinspiring Annual RE Conference 31st March: Salisbury Anglican Diocese

This year's theme will support teachers' understanding of Islam and non-religious worldviews. The event will be delivered online through a series of Zoom keynote sessions and workshops.

Adam Robertson from RE Today is our Keynote Speaker and he will be speaking on "Beyond the binaries: beauty, breadth and depth in Islamic and non-religious worldviews"

Zameer Hussain will be speaking on "Diversity within Islam"

Luke Donnellan on "Humanism as a non-religious Worldview"

Workshops (a choice of three in the morning and three more in the afternoon to inspire your teaching!) These include: Humanism KS2-3; Primary Islam EYFS-KS2; Secondary Islam KS3-5; Designing the Jigsaw of RE Learning by Discovery RE; Non-religious Worldviews – Thinking about Ethics in RE; Motivating Learning in RE.

Details can be found here :

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/psa-subscription-course-creative-and-reinspiring-7640>

CREative and REinspiring
Annual RE Conference



Thursday 31st March 2022

