



Humanism in Northern Ireland

Boyd Sleator

Saturday 8 September 2.00pm *Moordown*

Northern Ireland is probably the most conservative part of the UK. For the last 50 years, women in the rest of the UK have had access to abortion health care, yet today in Northern Ireland, women are still being prosecuted for obtaining abortion pills. Scotland, England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland have all allowed for same-sex couples to marry, yet in Northern Ireland, where the vast majority of people are in favour of same-sex marriage, the conservative Christian politicians block it. Northern Ireland Humanists Development Officer Boyd Sleator will talk about what Northern Ireland Humanists, with the help of Humanists UK, are doing to drag this small part of the UK into the 21st century.



Evolution and Ethics

Greg Atkins

Wednesday 26 September 7.30pm *Green House*

Where does morality come from? *Homo sapiens* has existed for about 200,000 years, but only for about 10,000 years in civilised society. The rest of the time we existed as hunter gatherers, and the species from which we evolved were also hunter gatherers. Evolutionary characteristics, including ethics, are likely to have been formed long before the rise of civilisation. Some patterns of behaviour are inherited in societies but a large amount of experimental data has now shown that perhaps more than 80 per cent of our basic behaviour patterns are controlled by our genes. Greg Atkins was a Professor of Science (Virology) at Trinity College Dublin until he retired and a founder member of the Humanist Association of Ireland.



Sunday Social Walks

See Meetup.com for details

Walks start at 10.15am unless otherwise stated. Most walks have short cuts or escape routes to make them about 4 or 5 miles.

Sunday 16th September – Holt Heath

Sunday 14th October – tbc

Sunday 18th November – tbc

Please check monthly bulletins, Meetup.com and our website for any late changes to programme



Charles Darwin: the many faces of a remarkable man

Norman Maclean

Saturday 13 October 2.00pm *Moordown*

This talk will explore the life of Charles Darwin as an explorer, naturalist, and family man, who went on to change the ways in which people think of themselves and the world in which they live. It will outline his boyhood and early education, his poor performance trying to do medicine at Edinburgh University, his thoughts of training to be a country clergyman at Cambridge before his epic five year round-the-world trip on the Beagle and his subsequent long deliberation before publishing his revolutionary findings. Norman Maclean is an emeritus Professor of Genetics at Southampton University. His latest books are "Silent Summer" and "A Less Green and Pleasant Land".



Influence & Persuasion: How to get other people to agree with you

Dr Peter Connolly

Wednesday 24 October 7.30pm *Green House*

Peter Connolly will outline two broad strategies for persuading people to accept that what you claim is true. The first is persuasion by evidence-based philosophical argumentation and the second is persuasion by rhetorical argumentation. By the end of the talk you should be able to make your own arguments more robust and be able to spot the flaws in the persuasive tactics of others. Peter Connolly has taught Religious Studies, Ethics, Indian Religions, and Psychology of Religion at the University of Chichester and the Open University. His most recent book, *Understanding Religious Experience*, is due to be published in February 2019.



Pub Socials

See Meetup.com for details *Moon*

Thursday 6th September 7.30pm

Thursday 4th October 7.30pm

Thursday 1st November 7.30pm

Enjoy stimulating conversation over a drink or two in a friendly atmosphere at our pub social evenings. Our current venue offers a wide range of drinks, and food is also available.

Keep an eye on our free monthly bulletins for details of occasional lunches, barbecues and other social events.



Out of the Box

Interfaith Discussions *Sandford*

Weds 5th Sept 7.30: Death Café

Weds 3rd Oct 7.30: Jesus: Myth or History?

Weds 7th Nov 7.30pm: Interfaith Conference

Weds 5th Dec 7.30pm: An interview with Noah streamed live from his Ark.

'Out of the Box' is a dialogue group for Humanists and Christians to explore differences and identify common ground.

See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.



Ethics & Economics: Does it have to be either/or?

Henri Ruff

Saturday 10 November 2.00pm *Moordown*

Economist Henri Ruff witnessed at first hand the devastating impact of unpayable debt in 1980s Warsaw. During his 25 year career in banking and financial services, which included third world debt negotiations, mergers & acquisitions lending, and lobbying on behalf of international banks, he became disturbingly aware of what they don't teach you about ethics when it comes to learning about economics. For the past fifteen years, he has worked as a tutor for the Open University Business School and since moving to Dorset he has been leading a weekly U3A discussion group on 'Everyday Economics'. This talk will address two main questions: where does ethics belong in economics and how can ethics be applied to economics? Instead of providing definitive answers, however, Henri's aim is to stimulate informed and independent thought.



Transparency International

Eva Anderson

Weds 28 November 7.30pm *Green House*

Corruption and inequality feed off each other, creating a vicious circle between corruption, unequal distribution of power in society, and unequal distribution of wealth. As the Panama Papers showed, it is still far too easy for the rich and powerful to exploit the opacity of the global financial system to enrich themselves at the expense of the public good. Eva Anderson will talk about TI's work on 'revolving door' and international money laundering in the UK, and anti-corruption reform work in Ukraine and Nigeria. She is a barrister and works on TI's International Defence & Security Programme.



Short Talks

See Meetup.com *Green House*

Tues 18th September – Steven Pinker: Is Everything Getting Better?

Tues 16th October – What's the Difference between a Quaker and a Humanist?

Tues 20th November – Support Services for Abortion and Sexual Health

At our Short Talks events, two or more speakers present short talks on a common theme.

£2-3 donation requested.

See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.



A humanist group exists to meet the needs of non-religious people who may identify as humanists, atheists, agnostics, secularists, sceptics or none of these. Dorset Humanists is an educational charity, a partner of Humanists UK, and affiliated to the international humanist movement. More than fifty percent of the UK population now identify

as having 'no religion' and so our potential constituency is huge and growing – particularly in the younger age groups. The needs of this population include the provision of meaningful ceremonies for important life events, the desire for friendship among like-minded people, an appetite for knowledge about how to live a good life and how to make the world a better place, and the demand for recognition from politicians and public organisations like the BBC and NHS to ensure that the views and needs of non-religious people are not ignored.

Dorset Humanists has been a positive presence in Bournemouth and beyond for over twenty years. Our events programme is busy, varied, and stimulating. I hope you will find topics and activities to interest you.

Everyone is welcome to attend our public events free of charge but we usually ask for a donation of £2-3 to help cover our costs. If you identify as a humanist we also invite you to support us with an annual and very affordable subscription, and also to join Humanists UK which is a separate but related organisation. Politicians only take notice of large membership groups. Please join the growing humanist movement.

If you would like to be kept up to date with all of our news simply visit our website and subscribe to our monthly bulletin, or leave your contact details at the desk.

David Warden
Chairman of Dorset Humanists, Honorary Member of Humanists UK, & Council Member of the South Central England Humanists Network

Annual Membership

Dorset Humanists is a registered charity (EW10227) and funded entirely by voluntary donations from our members and visitors. If you enjoy our events and share our aims and values, please help us continue our activities by paying our annual membership fee of £15 (Students £5).

Membership also enables you to participate in determining future group activities, obtain discounts on selected events, and vote on constitutional issues. To join us, pick up a membership form at one of our meetings, phone 07910 886629, or see our website.

Venue Location Details

Moordown - Moordown Community Centre
Coronation Avenue, Moordown BH9 1TW

Green House - The Green House Hotel
4 Grove Road Bournemouth BH1 3AX

Moon - Moon in the Square
4-8 Exeter Rd, Bournemouth BH2 5AQ

Sandford - Sandford Heritage Hall, Sandford Rd, Nr Wareham, BH20 7AJ (Next to Pine Martin Grange Care Home)

Refreshments can be purchased at most of our regular venues (please note bar and café opening times on arrival).

Event Pricing

Unless otherwise stated, entry to all events in this programme is free to members and non-members alike, although we do appreciate a small donation of £2 or £3 towards venue hire and expenses.

Mailing List

To receive our free monthly bulletins and regular updates, enter your email details on the website, or email us.

Website: www.dorsethumanists.co.uk
Facebook: Dorset Humanists
Meetup.com: [meetup.com/Dorset-Humanists](https://www.meetup.com/Dorset-Humanists)
Email: chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk

Ceremonies

Humanists UK trained Humanist celebrants are available to meet your needs for non-religious weddings, baby-namings and funerals. Please contact us, or check the 'Ceremonies' page on our website for further details.

Important Information

Please check our monthly bulletin, Meetup, and/or our website for any changes to this programme. The bulletin is published on our website and can also be posted or emailed to you.

Talks + Q&A usually last around 90 minutes.

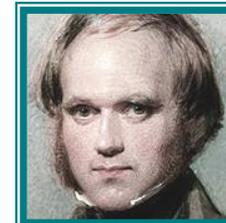
The views expressed by speakers are their own and not necessarily those of Dorset Humanists.



EVENTS

PROGRAMME

Autumn 2018



Free Entry!

to all events unless otherwise stated

SKEPTICAL ENQUIRY – ETHICS – HUMAN RIGHTS – DEMOCRACY
ATHEISM – SCIENCE – ENVIRONMENT – SECULARISM