



Members' Annual Lunch and AGM

Dorset Humanists Committee

Saturday 10 March 1.15pm *Moordown*

Dorset Humanists is a community group which has provided a friendly meeting place for non-religious people in Bournemouth and surrounding areas for over twenty years. We have established ourselves as a respected voice for reason and humanity, and Humanists UK has recognised that we are one of its most successful partner groups. None of this would be possible without the loyalty and support of our subscribing members and so, as a 'thank you', we are once again providing a complimentary buffet lunch prior to our AGM. Visitors are also very welcome to attend but we ask for a £3.00 donation for lunch – or you can join Dorset Humanists on the day! Our AGM is a sociable, enjoyable, and sometimes controversial event. Come along and have your say about the future of Dorset Humanists. Lunch starts at 1.15pm. AGM at 2.15pm.



The State of the Prisons

Rob Preece, Campaigns and Communications Manager, Howard League for Penal Reform

Wednesday 28 March 7.30pm *Green House*

As we send more and more people to prison, more and more people are swept into deeper currents of violence, drugs, frustration and mental distress. Incidents of assault and self-injury in prisons have risen to record levels. If we want prisons to be places of genuine reform, where people leave less likely to commit crime, we must ask ourselves hard questions about how and why we use them – and take steps to improve them.

The Howard League is a charity that works for less crime, safer communities, and fewer people in prison.



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.

18th March: Bournemouth Parks and Gardens taking in parts of Meyrick Park, Talbot Heath, Coy Pond and the Lower and Upper Gardens.

15th April – Bluebells in Roydon Woods near Brockenhurst

20th May: Hill Forts in the Stour Valley

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



Learning to Live Well Together

Dr Allan Hayes

Saturday 14 April 2.00pm *Moordown*

Taking his title from a recent book on interfaith diversity by Tom Wilson and Riaz Ravat, lifelong humanist Allan Hayes is concerned that, at a time when we need to bring people together, we are dividing children by religion, allowing the divisions between science and religion to deepen, and failing to promote a shared understanding of humanity. What can we do? Allan will highlight some of the ways in which we can all engage constructively with diversity. He will also address how religious education can be reformed.

Allan was a Church of England choirboy but he became a humanist at the age of 14. He has taught maths at Massachusetts Institute for Technology, Purdue University Indiana, and at the University of Leicester. He has served on the boards of the British Humanist Association, the Sea of Faith Network, All Faiths and None, and Leicester Secular Society.



Face to Faith: Christians and Humanists in Conversation

David Warden and John Macdiarmid

Wednesday 25 April 7.30pm *Green House*

John Macdiarmid was brought up a Catholic. He went through a brief phase of being an atheist and then converted to evangelical Christianity as a student. David Warden was an evangelical Christian in his teens and studied theology with a view to becoming a priest. But he left university as a confirmed atheist. John and David are friends and they have much in common, including playing the piano, but on the biggest question of all they remain firmly in opposite camps. Tonight we bring them together with compère Dean Robertson to discuss their respective worldviews in front of a live audience.



Pub Socials

See Meetup.com for details *Moon*

Thursday 1st March 7.30pm

Thursday 5th April 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd May 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 7th March 7.30: Privilege and Inequality – a discussion led by Andrew Salmon.

Weds 4th April 7.30: Mysticism and Spirituality – a discussion led by Eric Austen.

Weds 2nd May 7.30pm: Lost Gospels – a presentation and discussion led by David Warden.

'*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.



Debate: Is theism or atheism the best explanation for everything?

Greg Atkins and Keith Fox

Saturday 12 May 2.00pm *Moordown*

Defenders of Christian belief argue that theism is the best explanation for everything and is complementary, but not opposed, to a scientific understanding of the material world. Their opponents argue that theism is unnecessary and irrelevant for explaining the existence and nature of the cosmos, which should be based on science alone, and not involve the supernatural.

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. Keith Fox is Associate Director of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, and Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Southampton. He is a former trustee and chairman of Christians in Science.



Brexit, the Media, and the Future of Democracy

Jonathan MS Pearce and David Warden

Weds 23 May 7.30pm *Green House*

The EU referendum raised profound questions about democracy. Was it a victory for democracy or a travesty? Were the campaigns based on lies, spin, and fake news and, if so, how can we maintain any faith in democracy? Is contemporary journalism on the side of the people or financial interests? Is it time to hand over government to 'independent experts'? Jonathan MS Pearce and David Warden voted on opposite sides in the EU referendum but they share a passion for democracy. They will share their reflections on Brexit and then lead an open discussion about the state of our democracy.



Short Talks

See Meetup.com *Green House*

Weds 21st March – Ethics and Morality - a report from the Dorset Humanists Ethics Working Group

Tues 17th April – Truth and knowledge – how do we know what we think we know and is it true?

Tues 15th May – Improving the world one garden at a time – Slades Farm community garden

Two or more speakers present short talks on a common theme. We request that attendees donate £2 to £3 to help us cover the venue hire costs. See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.



Welcome to the latest edition of our events programme which, as always, includes stimulating presentations and discussions with a great line-up of guest speakers.

Everyone is welcome to attend our public events so if you enjoy discussing some or all of these topics with like-minded people please come along. Our members and

visitors are people with lively minds who want to learn, explore, discuss and debate, while ensuring our society is guided by sound values based on reason, evidence and compassion. We hope finding a group such as ours will also be a source of great friendship and fun! Look out for our monthly bulletins for details of additional interesting events including lunches, walks and pub discussion evenings.

If you like what we do, and share our aims and values, please consider annual membership (details below), which helps us continue hosting these stimulating events and to promote an ethical non-religious approach to life, informed by science, empathy and reason.

We look forward to meeting you.

David Warden
Chairman, Dorset Humanists

About Dorset Humanists...

We provide a forum for lively debate and discussion about a wide range of topics including science, philosophy, religion, psychology, politics, and ethical and environmental issues. We raise awareness of and make charitable donations to worthwhile causes at home and abroad.

We are a registered charity (EW10227) and a partner of Humanists UK which campaigns against discrimination and privilege based on religious belief. We are also a member of the National Secular Society which works towards a secular society.

Annual Membership

Dorset Humanists is entirely funded 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 (formerly BHA) 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.

Presentations usually last around 90 minutes.

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



EVENTS PROGRAMME

Spring 2018



Free Entry!

to all events unless otherwise stated

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