Amnesty International is a global movement of people who champion and fight for the human rights of other people, often risking their own lives to expose injustice and hold powerful people to account. Following a general introduction to Amnesty International’s work, including some moving success stories, Marilyn Jarrett will bring us up to date on the disturbing plight of many ‘Individuals at Risk’ and ‘Prisoners of Conscience’ such as Raif Badawi. She will also outline Amnesty’s new global refugee campaign. We hope Marilyn can also update us on the government’s proposals to replace the Human Rights Act in the UK with a “British Bill of Rights”. Join us for festive mince pies and mulled wine after the talk.

**Human Rights Defenders**
Marilyn Jarrett from Amnesty International
Saturday 10th December 2.00pm Moordown

**Libertarianism**
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy Arif Ahmed
Saturday 14th January 2.00pm Moordown

Humanism and liberty are natural allies but is libertarianism a step too far? Are libertarians selfish egoists who are indifferent to community and the suffering of the poor and who just want to protect big business? Libertarians tend to oppose welfare because they want to enrich the poor through high growth economies, not through handouts. They also oppose corporate welfare and crony capitalism which captures economic growth for a tiny elite. Arif Ahmed is a senior lecturer in the faculty of philosophy at the University of Cambridge. He has held visiting positions at universities in Sydney, China, and Italy. He is an atheist and he has debated against William Lane Craig, Tariq Ramadan, Rowan Williams and others. His philosophical outlook is most closely allied with those of David Hume and Friedrich Hayek.

**Science Without Pedestals**
Philosopher Julian Baggini
Saturday 11th February 12.00pm/2.00pm BIC

Celebrate Darwin Day in style with a delicious three course buffet lunch in BIC’s Purbeck Lounge, followed by a fascinating talk by our special guest writer, journalist, and co-founder of The Philosophers’ Magazine Julian Baggini. Humanists and free-thinkers rightly celebrate the many achievements of science, however some go too far in their admiration, and make science the model for all reason. Julian will argue that the scientific method cannot provide the template for reason, partly because there is no such thing as the scientific method, and most importantly, science cannot be the source of ethics nor can it debunk it. By challenging the pretensions of those who elevate science too high, we can better appreciate it for what it really is and more fully understand what it means to value reason and rationality.

**Out of the Box**
Black Bear
Wednesday 2nd February 7.30pm

‘Out of the Box’ is a dialogue group for Humanists and Christians to explore differences and identify common ground. The emphasis is on listening, learning and friendly dialogue. See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.

This year’s theme is ‘How Can Life Go On?’ looking at life after genocide and how survivors and their families have coped. Maggie Pepin will give the pledge. David Warden has been invited to light a candle during the Act of Commemoration and speak about the gay victims of Nazi Germany. Homosexual prisoners in concentration camps such as Buchenwald were identified by pink triangles and assigned to gruelling and dangerous work. Heinrich Himmler, overseer of the concentration camps, believed that homosexuality was a symptom of racial degeneracy which would deprive Germany of children. When the Allies liberated the camps surviving gay prisoners were treated as criminals and made to serve out the remainder of their sentences. 100,000 more arrests were made up until 1969. In 2008 a pink granite memorial to the victims was unveiled in Berlin.

**Human Rights in Schools**
Cathy Silman, Hilary Bond, and Dave Pegg
Wednesday 22nd February 7.30pm Green House

Religion in Schools
Cathy Silman, Hilary Bond, and Dave Pegg
Wednesday 22nd February 7.30pm Green House

Hilary Bond, Schools and Children’s worker for the Parish of Wareham, Cathy Silman, retired teacher and member of Dorset Humanists Education Group, and Christian schools worker Dave Pegg will discuss the controversial and contested domains of religious education, worship in schools, and faith schools. Can we find common ground? Come along and join this lively discussion.

**Pub Socials**
See Meetup.com for details Moon

December 18th – Parkstone Woods – 10.15am
A moderate walk (6 miles) around the footpaths, woods and chines of Parkstone, Canford Cliffs and Branksome, and alongside the harbour and sea front. The aim is to take in leafy roads and lanes that you may not have come across before. It is mostly on footpaths (some muddy) but some of the walk will be on quiet roads. There are possibilities to shorten if anyone wishes to. More details on Dorset Humanists Meetup.com.

Weds 7th Dec – The True Meaning of Christmas
A Christian minister will explain why he thinks Christmas was a mistake, and a humanist will explain why he doesn’t celebrate Christmas.

Join us for festive mince pies!

Weds 1st February – Topic to be announced

‘Out of the Box’ is a dialogue group for Humanists and Christians to explore differences and identify common ground. The emphasis is on listening, learning and friendly dialogue. 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 Partner of the British Humanist Association 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.

Free Entry!

Unless otherwise stated, entry to all events in this programme is free to members and non-members alike, although we do appreciate an optional small donation of £1 or £2 towards venue hire.

Parking

Moordown Community Centre: Free on-site parking, including parking for Disabled Badge Holders. Additional roadside parking available nearby.

Green House Hotel: Limited parking onsite. The Green House Hotel can also be accessed from Gervis Road which is well lit and has roadside parking available.

Refreshments

Refreshments can be purchased in Moordown Community Centre café and the Green House Hotel bar.

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
Email: chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk

Annual Membership £15 (Students £5)

For an information pack and membership details, phone 07910 886629 or see website.

Ceremonies

BHA-trained Humanist celebrants are available to meet your needs for non-religious weddings and funerals. Please contact us, or check the ‘Ceremonies’ page on our website for further details.

Information

Please check our monthly bulletin and/or 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.