In this richly illustrated account of a lifetime’s engagement with art, John Hubbard explores the pleasures and rewards of looking at paintings from several eras, both sacred and secular and considers reference to Sisley, Monet and Van Gogh. These journeys may be seen to embrace both the simply touristic as well as an individual’s informal education, providing something deeper than we only have access to what we call ‘metareality’ which consists of our perceptions of reality, not reality itself. He will demonstrate how easily these perceptions can be manipulated not only by demagogues, evangelists, and professional tricksters but also by ourselves.

James describes himself as a ‘professional opportunist’. He is a magician, pickpocket, hypnotist, lecturer, and corporate trainer.

In this talk James Brown will argue that we all begin our lives with a falseness: the belief that we can perceive reality objectivity. The truth is we can’t – we only have access to what he calls a ‘metareality’ which consists of our perceptions of reality, not reality itself. He will demonstrate how easily these perceptions can be manipulated not only by demagogues, evangelists, and professional tricksters but also by ourselves.

Luke is Head of Education at Humanists UK.

The past two years have seen greater recognition that religious education should involve more than just teaching about religion, and humanism is being taught about as an example of a non-religious worldview in more schools than ever. However, there is still a long way to go for humanism to be given equal recognition to the world’s major religions within the curriculum. Luke Donnellan will discuss the current status of RE in schools, provide suggestions on the best way to deliver good teaching about humanism, and describe both the successes taking place in schools and the work that still needs to be done.

Our Darwin Day guest speaker Diana Fleischman grew up in the Southern United States in a religious and conservative area where evolution was not taught in school. At the age of twelve she was called ‘monkey girl’ for endorsing evolution. Her sceptical perspective on religion was reinforced by attending both church and synagogue. During a formative year at the London School of Economics, shortly after the September 11th attacks, Diana read Richard Dawkins and other evolutionists and this stimulated her interest in atheism and evolutionary psychology. In this talk, Diana will explain that human morality developed in small face-to-face groups in which humans lived for hundreds of thousands of years. Survivors protected themselves against hostile out-groups, butchered animals, prioritized the welfare of themselves and their kin and somehow managed to maintain a moral reputation whilst exploiting opportunities for cheating. Our world is very different. Today we are aware of the suffering of billions of strangers and trillions of animals, our moral inconsistencies are magnified by surveillance, and we must prevent artificial agents developing a morality completely antithetical to our survival. How does our evolved morality cope with this novel ethical landscape and will we allow ourselves moral enhancement? Diana is an evolutionary psychologist at the University of Portsmouth.

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Lunch & Talk Ticket (12.00pm start): £22 Members / £25 non-members including welcoming glass of wine or soft drink, followed by a 2 course Italian buffet lunch & coffee.
Talk only Ticket (2.00pm start): £4 includes coffee or tea on arrival.

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Please check monthly bulletins, Meetup.com and our website for any late changes to programme.
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 free to members and also to join Humanists UK which is a separate but related organisation. Annual Membership helps 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.

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)

BIC - Bournemouth International Centre Exeter Road, Bournemouth BH2 5BH

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
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.

Annual Membership

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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.

Free Entry!

to all events unless otherwise stated

Skeptical Enquiry – Ethics – Human Rights – Democracy
Atheism – Science – Environment – Secularism