



The Human Brain: Probably the most complex object in the universe

Norman Maclean

Saturday 14th September 2.00pm *Moordown*

With over 100 billion nerve cells, each with between 1,000 and 10,000 interconnections, the Human brain is the most complex structure in the universe. In this talk Norman Maclean will discuss its structure, the different functions of its distinct parts, the roles of the left and right hemispheres, and how it performs in sleep. He will also talk about brain operations by neurological surgeons, and what goes wrong in diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, epilepsy, and brain tumours.

Norman Maclean is Emeritus Professor in Genetics at Southampton University and a Patron of Humanists UK. He has given us fascinating talks in the past including evolution and animal rights.



Evolutionary Psychology and The Blank Slate

Johan Nayer

Wednesday 25th September 7.30pm *Green House*

Evolutionary psychologists see the brain as an evolved entity that has been shaped over millennia but they have come into direct conflict with social scientists who believe that we are born as 'blank slates' and that all information about our minds is placed on us by our society. Cultural Marxists take this even further by stating that we are defined by our race, class, and gender, and that we must add up our 'oppressor points' and our 'victim points' to give us our place in society. Johan will explore how these ideas conflict, including the work of thinkers such as Steven Pinker and Jordan Peterson. Johan Nayer has a Masters in Evolutionary Psychology and he is the author of *The Creativity Manual*.



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 15th September – River Stour, starting from Throop

Sunday 20th October – Plush and Lyscombe, near Dorchester, incorporating the famous Brace of Pheasants pub.

Sunday 17th November – Badbury Rings

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



Surveillance Capitalism - who owns our privacy?

Henri Ruff

Saturday 12th October 2.00pm *Moordown*

Is your consumer behaviour being manipulated by digital data? 'Surveillance capitalism' may be the latest mutation of capitalism in the digital age. It's a form of market capitalism that transforms human behaviour and experience into digital data which is then used as a free source of raw material for commercial exploitation. It raises a number of concerns including the concentration of digital data, monopolistic behaviour, surreptitious surveillance, and the illusion of consent. Arguably, digital data is a manipulative tool to influence and even determine customers' behaviour. Henri Ruff will look at the problem and possible solutions. Henri is an economist and he has tutored for the Open University Business School. He is a member of Dorset Humanists and this is his second talk for us.



Music: a Humanist Perspective

Teddy Prout

Wednesday 23rd October 7.30pm *Green House*

Teddy Prout is a classically trained musician and was the director of performing arts at a large academy in West London for many years. He is now the Director of Community Services at Humanists UK, but continues to write and perform music. Teddy will be exploring the concepts of music, how it works, and how humans use it to create meaning in our lives. The talk will explore the common themes that music from a variety of cultures covers, and if there is such a thing as 'humanist music'. Using well known, and not so well known, examples of music, it is hoped the talk will be as entertaining as it will be informative.



Pub Socials

See Meetup.com for details *Moou*

Thursday 5th September 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd October 7.30pm

Thursday 7th 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.



Modern Money Theory

Deborah Harrington and Prue Plumridge

Saturday 9th November 2.00pm *Moordown*

Have we really 'maxed out the credit card?' Do we need to 'pay down the debt'? Can we really 'run out of money' and do governments have to 'balance the books'? This talk and discussion will focus on how such slogans entered political discourse and the vested interests served by this way of thinking. Changing the debate about our economy requires a better understanding of how money really works and is essential to delivering high quality universal services and a Green New Deal.

Prue Plumridge is a co-director of the Gower Initiative of Modern Money Studies and Deborah Harrington is a co-Director of Public Matters, an independent research and information partnership.



Almost 70 years an Atheist

Geoff Kirby

Weds 27th November 7.30pm *Green House*

In 1951, Geoff Kirby had a 'Road to Damascus' experience – but in reverse – when he suddenly gave up all belief in gods. But the 1950s were no time for a pre-teenager to declare a disbelief in gods. He was once publicly reviled as the 'sperm of the Devil' and warned that he could be barred from many career options. In this talk, Geoff will explain why he became an atheist at such a young age, the problems this caused in the 1950s, and the basis for his confidence that science, not gods, can lead us to a good life as well as an understanding of our universe. Geoff has degrees in physics and environmental sciences and he is a member of West Dorset Humanists.



Out of the Box

Interfaith Discussions *Sandford*

Weds 2nd October 7.30: Panel discussion including representatives from Extinction Rebellion, the Green Party, and Greenpeace.

Weds 6th November 7.30: The Abortion Debate – David Warden and Dave Pegg

Weds 4th December 7.30pm: The Nativity – Mary and Joseph are beamed into the present to be interviewed on what exactly happened in Bethlehem all those years ago.

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



Short Talks

See Meetup.com *Green House*

Tues 15th October – not yet scheduled

Tues 19th November – Medical Ethics: Debbie Sears and Barry Newman

Two or more speakers present short talks on a common theme. We request that attendees donate £2 to £3 to help cover venue hire. 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)

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

Ceremonies

Trained and accredited Humanist celebrants are available to meet your needs for non-religious weddings, 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.

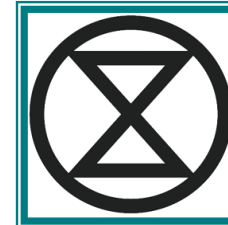
Presentations with Q&A last around 90 minutes.

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



EVENTS PROGRAMME

Autumn 2019



Free Entry!

to all events unless otherwise stated

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