



The word 'humanism' is just shorthand for a very familiar set of ideas and ideals. These include freedom of thought and speech, a rational and scientific understanding of the world, the quest for truth, accepting that this is our one life, and doing our best to live well and enjoy 'human flourishing'. Within this minimal framework we're free to think, question, and disagree, guided by the best available evidence and reflection. These ideas and practices have been with us for thousands of years and today we call it 'humanism'.

Most of us are already trying to live well and flourish. What a humanist group can offer is opportunities for reflective thought and conversation, drawing on the wisdom of the past and the knowledge available to us today. We don't offer fixed answers. What we offer is space and time for discussion, dialogue and learning together. If we do this well, we can be a force for good in our wider communities and networks. People will notice that being a humanist makes a difference to the way we interact with others and live our lives.

This is the ethos behind all of our events: good thinking and good dialogue as we deepen our understanding of the lifelong challenge of being human. It's our hope that you will find stimulation and friendship by being part of our humanist group, whether as an occasional visitor or a lifelong member.

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 welcome desk.

David Warden

Chairman of Dorset Humanists

Editor of Humanistically Speaking magazine

Honorary Member of Humanists UK

Joining is easy and affordable!

Dorset Humanists is recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue (EW10227) and funded entirely by voluntary donations. If you enjoy our events and share our aims and values, please join us for a very affordable £15 pa (students £5). Members get special discounts on selected events and more say in how we develop in the future. 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 around £3.00 towards costs. Courses may attract an initial booking fee.

Parking

Moordown: Free on-site parking, including parking for Disabled Badge Holders. Additional roadside parking available nearby. West Cliff Hotel: Two hotel car parks with charges. There's also quite good roadside parking nearby.

Refreshments

Some refreshments are complimentary. Otherwise, drinks and snacks can be purchased in Moordown Community Centre café and the West Cliff Hotel bar.

Mailing List

To receive our free monthly bulletins and regular updates, enter your email details on the website, or leave your email address at the desk.

Ceremonies

Accredited humanist celebrants are available to meet your needs for non-religious weddings, namings and funerals. Please see our website or leaflets on ceremonies.

Lending Library

We have a humanist lending library at Moordown Community Centre. Please browse and borrow books and remember to bring them back the following month.

Information

Please check our monthly bulletin and/or Meetup.com site for any changes to this programme. The views expressed by speakers/facilitators are their own and not necessarily those of Dorset Humanists.

Dogs

Only assistance dogs trained to support a disability are permitted at our speaker events. Dogs are welcome on our walks.

Venue addresses

Moordown Community Centre Coronation Avenue, BH9 1TW

Bournemouth West Cliff Hotel 7 Durlay Chine Rd,
Bournemouth BH2 5JS

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



April – June 2026



A partner of
Humanists UK



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Simple Pleasures: The Human Story of Chocolate

Saturday 11th April 2.00pm *Moordown*

This Humanist Café event celebrates one of life’s simplest and most enjoyable pleasures: chocolate. Together we’ll taste, share, and reflect on flavour, human ingenuity, and the global story behind one of our favourite treats. If you’d like to, bring along a favourite bar or small box to share at your table – we will also provide chocolate samples for everyone to try. Expect friendly conversation, mindful tasting, and a warm café atmosphere as we enjoy good company and discover just how much there is to savour in a small piece of chocolate. This event was inspired by Leo, a member of Dorset Humanists.



Can you tell the difference? Humans, A.I. and the new reality

Saturday 9th May 2.00pm *Moordown*

Advances in artificial intelligence are rapidly blurring the boundary between what’s real and what’s fake. From text and artwork to lifelike videos and increasingly sophisticated scams, it’s becoming harder to tell fact from fabrication. How confident are we in recognising what’s human and what’s artificial? And what skills do we need to navigate this new “hyperreal” world? Through examples, discussion and a fun “Human or A.I.?” quiz, we’ll consider how to sharpen our judgement and stay alert in an age of digital illusion.



Humanist Café: The Art and Skill of Good Conversation

Saturday 20th June 2.00pm *Moordown*

In today’s world of incessant communication, are we losing the art and skill of good conversation? What’s the best way to start a conversation with someone we don’t know? How can we become better listeners? And how can we overcome the social anxieties that can make conversation an ordeal rather than a pleasure? Together, we’ll reflect honestly and openly about our experiences of conversation. We’ll explore practical ideas for becoming more confident in social situations, and consider how good conversation helps to sustain friendships, communities and a shared sense of belonging.



Enoughness: How much is enough for a good life?

Thursday 23rd April 7.30pm *West Cliff*

Modern life constantly encourages us to want more – more success, more possessions, more experiences, more of everything. But how much is actually enough for a good life? In this interactive discussion, Dorset Humanists member Henri Ruff invites us to reflect together on the idea of “enoughness”. How do we balance ambition, contentment, and gratitude? What shapes our sense of “enough” at different stages of life? This will be a friendly, open conversation where everyone’s experiences and perspectives are welcome.



Tough on crime: is our current approach working?

Thursday 28th May 7.30pm *West Cliff*

Public debate in the UK often focuses on being “tough on crime”, yet reoffending rates remain high and prisons overcrowded. This raises deeper questions about the purpose of justice. Should the priority be deterrence, public protection, rehabilitation, or some balance between them? What helps individuals and communities move forward after crime has occurred? Barry Newman will invite us to reflect on the aims of justice in contemporary Britain.



Education: Preparation for work or developing the whole person?

Thursday 25th June 7.30pm *West Cliff*

Schools are often judged by exam results and their ability to prepare young people for employment. Yet many people believe education should do more than this — helping students develop curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, and a sense of responsibility to others. In this discussion-led session, Barry Newman invites us to explore how schools can strike the right balance between preparation for work and broader development of the whole person. Can we identify subjects and priorities that best foster humanist values and help young people flourish?



Third Sunday walks

Full details on Meetup.com

We’ll announce walks at our events. Also, keep an eye on our Meetup site for full details. Our walks aim to be pleasant and manageable for most levels of fitness. Sometimes they are local to Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole, and occasionally we venture out to enjoy the incredible scenery of the Jurassic Coast or the New Forest. Please let David know if you would like to lead a walk. 07910 886629



First Thursday pub socials

Details on Meetup.com

Our pub social is on the first Thursday of the month at Moon in the Square. Hosted by Dean Robertson or Lyn Glass. We usually find a table on the ground floor on the right-hand side as you enter. No set agenda. Just turn up and chat! Food is available and drinks are affordable. From 7.30pm until around 10.30pm. Thursday 2nd April, Thursday 7th May, Thursday 4th June.



Third Friday hotel socials

Details on Meetup.com

If you're less keen on venturing into the town centre, why not come along to the West Cliff Hotel on a Friday evening to enjoy friendly conversation and drinks in the hotel bar? These socials are hosted by committee members Sandra Lucie-Smith or Lyn Glass. Please note that bar prices are a bit higher than Wetherspoons. Friday 17th April 7.30pm, Friday 15th May 7.30pm, Friday 19th June 7.30pm.

Details correct at the time of printing. Please check the latest bulletin and especially Meetup.com for any changes to this programme.