



We all have one life to live, and one of life's greatest challenges is learning how to live it well. At Dorset Humanists, our purpose is to help people flourish by creating opportunities for friendship, thoughtful conversation and lifelong learning. Together we explore what it means to live a good life, drawing on the wisdom of the past and the best knowledge available to us today.

The name we give to this approach is humanism: a commitment to freedom of thought and expression, a rational and scientific understanding of reality, kindness, curiosity and human flourishing. Within this broad humanist framework we're free to think, question and disagree respectfully, guided by evidence, reason and shared experience rather than fixed dogma.

We don't offer ready-made answers. What we offer is space and time for discussion, dialogue and discovery together. This is the ethos behind all our events: good thinking, good conversation and the shared adventure of understanding what it means to be human. Our hope is that you'll find stimulation, friendship and a sense of belonging, whether you join us occasionally or become a lifelong member.

If you'd like to keep in touch with our activities, simply subscribe to our monthly bulletin via our website 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 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. Some events 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. There's also quite good roadside parking nearby.

Refreshments

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

Mailing List

To receive our free monthly magazine 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



Dorset Humanists Events

— Summer 2026 —



Website: dorset.humanist.org.uk

Email: chairman@dorset.humanist.org.uk

Phone: 07910 886629





Garden Party

Scrumptious tea in aid of Humanist Schools in Uganda

Saturday 11th July 3.00pm *Westbourne*

Indulge in the quintessential English tradition of an al fresco Summer Cream Tea including home made gluten-free scones and clotted cream. Forecast hot and sunny at the time of writing. Bring a parasol if you prefer shade.

Start time is 3pm and leaving time is 6pm. There's no parking in our drive or street – please plan your parking and allow a few minutes to walk to the venue (please let David know if you need disabled parking). This event is complimentary for members and guests but please bring cash or card to make a donation large or small. David 07910 886629



Jurassic Coast Spectacular Walk

Sunday 26th July 10.15am
Tyneham Village

Our next walk is the legendary Tyneham Ranges walk on Sunday 26th July. Assemble at Tyneham Village car park 10:15 for a 10:30 set off. This 6-mile circular walk takes in cliff paths and a steep, challenging hillside that will really tone those glutes before we explore a hill fort, relax on a beach, then return on the flat to the start point. Don't worry – we'll go at a manageable pace and take rest breaks when required. The Jurassic Coast views on this walk are some of the most breathtaking to be seen anywhere in the world. You won't regret making the effort! 07910 886629



Sunday walks

Full details on Meetup.com

Our walks combine beautiful scenery with good company. Whether exploring Dorset's spectacular coastline, heathland or countryside, they offer a chance to enjoy gentle exercise, friendly conversation and a welcome break from the pressures of everyday life. Walking in nature is known to benefit both physical and mental wellbeing, making our walks a relaxed and enjoyable way to make friends, discover new places and appreciate our wonderful landscapes.



The World Humanist Congress takes place in Ottawa, Canada, from 7–9 August. Organised by Humanists International and Humanist Canada, it brings together humanist leaders, thinkers and activists from around the world to exchange ideas, strengthen international partnerships and discuss the future of the humanist movement. This year's theme is Humanism as Resistance, exploring how humanist values can respond to contemporary global challenges. As an Associate Member of Humanists International, Dorset Humanists will be represented at the Congress by our Chair, David Warden, who will report back in a future issue of our ONE LIFE magazine.



Foraging Walk: Hengistbury Head

Sunday 30th August 10.15am
Hengistbury Head Café

Join us for a leisurely guided foraging amble around Hengistbury Head and Mudeford Spit with local enthusiast Dave, who has extensive knowledge of the area's plants, trees, fungi and edible wild foods. Discover what grows beneath our feet and along the shoreline, and gain a new appreciation of the rich natural environment on our doorstep. This promises to be an enjoyable and informative outdoors event for those who are happy to stop and stare. Full details will be published on Meetup.



First Thursday pub socials

Details on Meetup.com

Our pub social is on the first Thursday of the month at Moon in the Square. 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 reasonably priced. From 7.30pm until whenever you like.

Thursday 2nd July, Thursday 7th August, Thursday 3rd September. Please check on Meetup for any changes.



Humanist Café: A Highly Abridged History of Sex

Saturday 12th September 2.00pm *Moordown*

From Ice Age carvings and ancient Greek sex toys to Roman phallic monuments, medieval Welsh poetry and Japanese erotic art, this interactive talk explores how different cultures understood sex, desire and the human body. Rather than telling a simple story of progress or decline, Dr George Locke asks why so much of this history has been forgotten, sanitised or reinterpreted through later moral assumptions. Through archaeology, literature and art, we discover that many of our modern attitudes are surprisingly recent. Expect a lively discussion that challenges familiar narratives and invites us to see the past with fresh eyes.



Gossip: guilty pleasure or social necessity?

Thursday 24th September 7.30pm *West Cliff*

Many people enjoy a good gossip – especially if it involves saying unpleasant things about someone who is not there to stand up for him- or herself. Yet while gossip can seem unkind or trivial, sociologists suggest that it may play an important role in maintaining social bonds and reinforcing shared norms. Does gossip help communities function, or does it risk harming reputations and trust? And is there such a thing as responsible gossip? Simon Whipple will lead a thoughtful discussion on the merits and pitfalls of talking about others.



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 July 7.30pm, Friday 21st August 7.30pm, Friday 18th September 7.30pm.

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