

## Members' Annual Lunch and AGM

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1.15pm lunch followed by AGM 2.15pm  
*Moordown Community Centre*

Dorset Humanists has provided a welcoming and stimulating meeting place for non-religious people in Bournemouth and surrounding areas for over twenty years. We are a respected part of the community, and Humanists UK has recognised that we are one of its most successful partner groups. None of this would be possible without the loyalty and support of our subscribing members and so, as a 'thank you', we are once again providing a complimentary lunch prior to our AGM. Visitors are also very welcome to attend but we ask for a £5.00 donation for lunch – or you can join Dorset Humanists for just £15.00. Our AGM is a sociable and enjoyable event. Lunch at 1.15pm. AGM at 2.15pm.



## The Danger Posed by Emerging Virus Infections

Greg Atkins

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm *Green House*

In 2003, at the time of the SARS epidemic, Professor Greg Atkins gave an interview to Irish broadcaster RTÉ. The interviewer was Fergal Keane, who now works for the BBC. His first question was "Should we panic?". A similar reaction is now taking place with the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. The virus has, so far, only produced mild symptoms in most of those infected, but has killed some people, who were all elderly or suffering from other diseases. So could this virus pose a greater danger? After all, 20-50 million people were killed by the 1918 flu virus, and HIV has infected and debilitated or killed millions. Greg, who taught virology at Trinity College Dublin, is well-placed to comment on the unfolding crisis.



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> March – to be advised

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April – to be advised

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – to be advised

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



## Do Animals have a Theory of Mind?

Juliane Kaminski

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm *Moordown*

Human sociality appears to be unique throughout the animal kingdom in its complexity as well as its impact on the lifestyle and environment of the species. At the centre of human sociality is our ability to make inferences about other people's attention, visual access, beliefs and knowledge. This is widely referred to and summarized by the term 'theory of mind'. One goal in comparative psychology is to investigate to what extent these social cognitive capacities are uniquely human or shared with other species. Our speaker Juliane Kaminski is a Reader in Comparative Psychology at the University of Portsmouth and she has undertaken research at the Max Planck Institute for evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.



## The Goldilocks Enigma: Is the Universe Trying to Kill Us?

Geoff Kirby

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 7.30pm *Green House*

The universe has shown a clear determination to prevent humanity from being on our planet. Our ancestors were very nearly killed off by a succession of deadly asteroid strikes, plagues, and Ice Ages. Even the emergence of the first living, reproducing cell appears to have been so unimaginably unlikely that it is a miracle (of the non-religious kind!) that the universe is not sterile. Geoff's talk will discuss the extremely improbable flukes that have combined to produce and maintained us. He will explore the possibility that our universe is more than likely a computer simulation where we are avatars in some alien computer game. Geoff is a scientist who has long enjoyed a passion for astronomy, atheism, and rationality. He hopes that the universe's obvious vendetta against the human race does not prevent him from giving his talk.



## Pub Socials

See Meetup.com for details *PHB*

Poole Hill Brewery, 41-43 Poole Hill, BH2 5PW

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7.30pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 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.



## Out of the Box

Interfaith Discussions *Sandford*

Weds 4<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm: Creationism vs Evolution

Weds 1<sup>st</sup> April 7.30pm: Age of Responsibility

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm: Spiritual or Political? What did Jesus mean by the 'Kingdom of God'?

'Out of the Box', co-hosted by Dorset Humanists, is a dialogue group for people of different faiths and worldviews to explore differences and, where possible, to identify common ground.

See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.



## The Future of Sentience

David Pearce

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm *Moordown*

David Pearce is author of *The Hedonistic Imperative* which advocates using biotechnology to abolish suffering throughout the living world in favour of gradients of superhuman bliss. In 1998, Pearce co-founded the *World Transhumanist Association* with Nick Bostrom, now rebranded as *Humanity Plus*. Transhumanists urge the use of technology to create a "triple S" civilisation of superhappiness, superlongevity and superintelligence. Transhumanists anticipate a glorious future for all sentient beings. This talk explores some of the pitfalls of editing our genetic code. Should all babies be "designer babies"? What could go wrong?



## Assisted dying

Barry Newman

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm *Green House*

Our speaker Barry Newman is a retired intensive care medicine consultant and well-placed to explore the sensitive and controversial topic of assisted dying. This difficult issue remains topical in the press and in ethical debate due to frequent difficult cases, the activity of lobby groups and a rapidly changing legal global landscape. Barry will present a definition of terms, as confusion here is a common source of spurious differences. He will provide a summary of current law and practice in assisted dying in the western world and will summarise the non-faith ethical cases for and against assisted dying.

In 2019, Humanists UK helped establish the Assisted Dying Coalition, the national coalition working towards humane changes in the law.



## Short Talks

See Meetup.com *Green House*

Our popular Short Talks programme is taking a break but we'll be back as soon as possible.

Do you have a short talk to offer? You don't have to be an expert or experienced speaker – just someone with personal knowledge about an interesting topic. At our Short Talks events, two or more speakers present talks (about 20 minutes each) on a common or related theme.

£2-3 donation requested.

See monthly bulletins or Meetup.com for details.



Dorset Humanists aims to meet the needs of non-religious people. More than fifty percent of the UK population now identify as having 'no religion' and so our potential membership 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 and understanding about 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 is an educational charity, a partner of Humanists UK, an associate member of Humanists International, and an associate member of the National Secular Society. Our group 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 our 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

### Join us to end the invisibility of non-religious people!

Non-religious people will continue to be ignored by decision-makers unless we join together. Dorset Humanists is part of a growing network of humanists, atheists, and secularists. We are a registered charity in our own right (EW10227) and funded entirely by voluntary donations. If you enjoy our events and share our aims and values, please join us for an incredible £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.

### Venue Details

**Moordown** - Moordown Community Centre  
Coronation Avenue, Moordown BH9 1TW

**Green House** - The Green House Hotel  
4 Grove Road Bournemouth BH1 3AX

**PHB: Poole Hill Brewery** 41-43 Poole Hill, BH2 5PW

**Sandford** - Sandford Heritage Hall, Sandford Rd, Nr Wareham, BH20 7AJ (Next to Pine Martin Grange Care Home)

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.dorset.humanist.org.uk/wp/](http://www.dorset.humanist.org.uk/wp/)  
**Facebook:** Dorset Humanists  
**Meetup.com:** [meetup.com/Dorset-Humanists](https://www.meetup.com/Dorset-Humanists)  
**Email:** [chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk](mailto: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.

### 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.

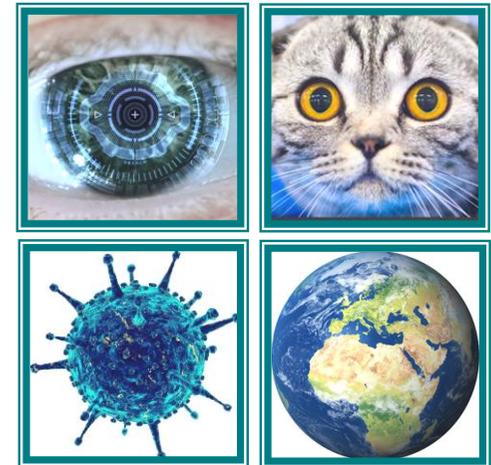
Talks + Q&A usually last around 90 minutes.

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



# EVENTS PROGRAMME

## Spring 2020



# Free Entry!

*unless otherwise stated*

ETHICS – PHILOSOPHY – SCIENCE – HUMAN RIGHTS