



Apostasy in the UK

Dr George Askwith
Saturday 14th October 2.00pm *Moordown*

This talk will explore the difficulties and challenges of abandoning religious beliefs and affiliations in the context of contemporary UK society. In a nation that has long been influenced by religious traditions yet is increasingly diverse and secular, the act of apostasy can still have serious personal and social implications. While the act of apostasy can be a deeply personal decision, it often has broader consequences, affecting family relationships, social circles, and sometimes resulting in communal ostracism. George is a member of Dorset Humanists committee and she is a postgraduate research administrator at Bournemouth University. She's also an active member of *Faith to Faithless*, a section of Humanists UK which supports people leaving high control religions, and she has lived experience of apostasy.



Agreeable Disagreement

A panel of speakers from different faiths and beliefs
Saturday 11th November 2.00pm *Moordown*

12-19 November is interfaith week. Dorset Humanists has always aimed to have positive and friendly relationships with local faith groups and we regularly go into schools to talk about Humanism in the company of faith representatives. This event showcases the brilliant team called *Many Faiths Together* which has been visiting local schools for several years. We disagree about some fundamental things, like belief in a deity, but we've also discovered some surprising and encouraging points of agreement and common ground. Come along to put your challenging questions to our panel comprising a Humanist, a Muslim, a Jew, a Buddhist, and a Christian. If they can cope with teenagers they can probably cope with a bunch of argumentative Humanists!



Navigating the Maze of Logical Fallacies

Daniel Dancey
Saturday 9th December 2.00pm *Moordown*

This entertaining talk aims to equip attendees with the skills to recognize and dissect faulty reasoning in everyday discussions, debates, and media. Logical fallacies, often disguised as convincing arguments, can distort our perception of reality and mislead us into making poor decisions. This talk will delve into common fallacies like *ad hominem* attacks, slippery slopes, and straw man arguments, providing real-world examples to illuminate how they operate. Daniel is Treasurer and Webmaster of Dorset Humanists and he works in software engineering. *Please give generously to our Charity Appeal in return for complimentary mince pies and mulled wine.*



Decoding Diet Hype: The Science of Nutrition Unveiled

Chloe Casey
Wednesday 25th October 7.30pm *Orchid Hotel*

This talk will cut through the clutter of trendy diets and food fads to reveal what the evidence actually says about how to optimise your nutrition. Learn how to scrutinize scientific studies and dissect marketing claims to make genuinely informed choices about your health. Chloe Casey is a lecturer in nutrition and behaviour at Bournemouth University. She teaches psychology, behaviour change, and qualitative research methods on undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses. She is currently completing her PhD.



Unlocking the Masonic Mysteries

Malcolm Williamson
Weds 22nd November 7.30pm *Orchid Hotel*

Malcolm Williamson, a lifelong Freemason, is set to demystify an organization often shrouded in secrecy and intrigue. Offering an intimate look into his own Masonic journey, he aims to dispel common misconceptions and shed light on the true nature of Freemasonry. This candid discussion promises to spark curiosity, inviting our members to engage Malcolm in a thought-provoking Q&A session. We anticipate that the questions will not only be insightful but also respectful, allowing for a deeper understanding of this enigmatic yet fascinating institution.



Food Glorious Food: Yuletide Dinner

Contact Sandra Lucie-Smith
Tuesday 19th December 7.00pm *Marsham Court*

Join us for another great night out at the Marsham Court Hotel. Last year we had good food and great fun so why not join us again – or for the first time? Contact Sandra Lucie-Smith on 07779 769108 or sandra.luciesmith@live.com to reserve your place and your 3-course menu choice. The cost is £24.95 per person payable online - ask Sandra for payment details. Partners welcome. Dress code: smart casual – festive wear optional. Please bring some cash if you would like to donate to our Charity Appeal. Numbers limited! Closing date Monday 20th November.



WALKS

Full details on [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

- 6 miles Sunday 22nd October New Forest and Woodgreen Deer Trek** Magnificent autumn colours and optional lunch at the Horse and Groom – booking advisable.
- 7 miles Sunday 26th November – Along the coast to Poole** Starting from Branksome Chine and ending at Poole Quay.
- 6 miles Sunday 17th December The Heart of Bournemouth** – From Bournemouth Gardens to Talbot Heath and beyond. Please join Dorset Humanists on Meetup for full details and to be notified of any changes owing to bad weather.



SOCIALS

Details on [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com)

Our pub social is usually 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 reasonably priced. From 7.30pm until whenever you like. Plus occasional barbecues or garden parties in the summer – why not organise one?



COURSES

There are no courses currently scheduled owing to lack of capacity. David Warden has run evening courses in the past on Humanism, Happiness, Friendship, and Existentialism. Our scientific members have also run a course on science. If you would like to run a course you should have experience in teaching, training or presenting and have good subject knowledge, or access to others who have. Proposals can be emailed to chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk

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



Dorset Humanists is a humanist group. We've been meeting the needs of local non-religious people since 1996 – for friendship with like-minded people, for intellectual stimulation, and for a sense of belonging to a local and global community of humanists and freethinkers.

Dorset Humanists is an educational charity, a partner of Humanists UK, an associate member of Humanists International, and a group member of the National Secular Society.

We've 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 around £3.00 to help cover our costs. If you support our aims (principally to represent and promote humanism understood as an ethical, non-religious worldview) 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 kindred organisation.

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.

We look forward to seeing you.

David Warden
Chairman of Dorset Humanists
Humanist Adviser to Bournemouth University and Arts
University Bournemouth Faith & Refection Team
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.

Parking

Moordown: Free on-site parking, including parking for Disabled Badge Holders. Additional roadside parking available nearby. Orchid Hotel: Limited parking onsite. The hotel can also be accessed from Gervis Road which is well lit and has roadside parking available.

Refreshments

Can be purchased in Moordown Community Centre café and the Orchid 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. Talks usually last around 50 minutes plus Q&A. The views expressed by speakers are their own and not necessarily those of Dorset Humanists.

Venue addresses

Moordown Community Centre Coronation Avenue, BH9 1TW

Orchid Hotel 34 Gervis Rd, Bournemouth BH1 3DH

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



EVENTS PROGRAMME



Oct – Dec 2023



chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk

☎ 07910 886629