



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 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



Jan – Mar 2024



[chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk)

☎ 07910 886629



**Rethinking the NHS: A Clinician's Roadmap to Efficiency**  
*Barry Newman* Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2.00pm  
*Moordown*

Drawing on his extensive experience, retired intensive care consultant Barry Newman will address the critical challenges facing the NHS, including long waiting lists and the financial strains from compensation claims. He proposes a radical shift in management, advocating a change in the way the NHS is strategically and operationally managed. This insightful talk will be of interest to everyone who wants to understand the NHS's current crisis and realistic proposals for reform.

Barry Newman is a member of Dorset Humanists Committee and he leads our School Visiting Programme.



**Darwin Day Lunch**  
*Catherine Nixey*  
 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 1.15pm *Moordown*

After a delicious lunch provided by committee members, our distinguished guest speaker Catherine Nixey will talk about her latest book *Heresy* which chronicles how orthodox Christianity eventually triumphed over a multitude of competing messiahs in the early centuries.

Catherine Nixey studied Classics at Cambridge and now works as a journalist at the *Economist*. Her first book, *The Darkening Age: The Christian Destruction of the Classical World*, was published in 2017 and was an international bestseller. This is her second visit to Dorset Humanists.



**Annual Members' Meeting**  
*With complimentary buffet lunch*  
 Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 1.15pm *Moordown*

Another chance to grab a free lunch! This one is more informal and it precedes our annual meeting which is always a very lively affair. Our treasurer will give an account of our income and expenditure and our Chairman will give his report of the year. He will also announce Dorset Humanists' Humanist of the Year. It could be you! Members will elect the committee and Chair for the next year and discuss and vote on any proposals. Please submit any proposals you would like to be discussed no later than the end of January to [chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk). Nominations for the committee must also be received no later than the end of February.



**Contested Histories: What Really Happened in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War?**  
*David Warden*  
 Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 7.30pm *Orchid Hotel*

Humanism strives for objectivity and truth but finding out what really happened during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war is not an easy task. There are competing histories of the war which inform how we think about the Israel-Gaza situation today. It's almost as if history itself is engaged in a kind of ideological warfare. Drawing on scholarly accounts, David will offer an exploration of the war and the ensuing refugee crisis which is still with us today. David is Chairman of Dorset Humanists and the Humanist Representative on the Bournemouth & Poole Holocaust Memorial Day Committee.



**Election 2024: Humanist Perspectives from the Left**  
*Simon Bowden and others*  
 Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm *Orchid Hotel*

Humanism is not aligned to a political party or ideology but humanists want to build a society in which everyone can flourish. Humanist values which "lean left" include equality and social justice, compassion and empathy, environmentalism, human rights, a fair voting system, global cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution. What policies and reforms would humanists coming from the left and centre left of the political spectrum like to see in party manifestos? Simon is a retired BBC journalist and he has a keen interest in politics. He is Secretary of Dorset Humanists.



**Election 2024: Humanist Perspectives from the Right**  
*David Warden and Aaron Darkwood*  
 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm *Orchid Hotel*

Humanism is not aligned to a political party or ideology but humanists want to build a society in which everyone can flourish. Humanist values which "lean right" include economic dynamism, individual liberty and responsibility, community, national cohesion, rule of law, respect for tradition and customs, defence of Western culture and values, and control of borders. What policies and reforms would humanists coming from the right and centre right of the political spectrum like to see in party manifestos? Aaron Darkwood and David Warden are both members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) which is a hybrid of left and right approaches.



**WALKS**  
*Full details on Meetup.com*

There are no walks currently scheduled but please join our Meetup site to be notified of any upcoming walks. If you would like to suggest a walk, please plan the route for about 6-8 miles. Ideally, the starting point should be accessible by bus or train, or try to organise lift shares – preferably keeping driving to a minimum. We have two qualified first aiders – Daniel and Aaron – and you can liaise with them about safety. Walks must have at least one qualified first aider and a member of Dorset Humanists Committee present.



**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 reasonably priced. From 7.30pm until whenever you like.

Plus occasional barbecues or garden parties in the summer – why not host one?



**Learning about Humanism**

Have you visited our humanist library lately? We have an extensive collection of books on humanism, atheism, secularism, science and much more in our superb lending library which is available at Moordown Community Centre every second Saturday of the month. Turn up before the main event starts (see details on this page) and have a browse, or during the break at 3.30pm. Don't forget to return books in a timely manner.

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