



At Dorset Humanists, we love to explore what it means to be human and how to make the most of our one life on this beautiful planet. Humanism is a non-religious worldview and 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
 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. West Cliff Hotel: Two hotel car parks but you must register your registration number at reception to avoid a fine. There's also quite good roadside parking.

Refreshments

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. 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

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

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



EVENTS PROGRAMME



July – Sept 2024



chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk

☎ 07910 886629



Question Time Panel

Members of Dorset Humanists
Saturday 13th July 2.00pm *Moordown*

Now that we've got a new Prime Minister in 10 Downing Street, what are the panel's thoughts on what is likely to happen next in British politics? Will things only get better? Or are things likely to get worse for the foreseeable future? What should the new government do in the first 100 days?

Our panel members are Cathy Silman, Daniel Dancey, Aaron Darkwood, Roger Eede, and David Warden. This panel represents the variety of political views found in Dorset Humanists including left, right, and green. We expect Sir Keir Starmer to make an appearance in some format.



Summer Cream Tea

Saturday 10th August 2.00pm
Private members' garden

Join us for a delicious *al fresco* Summer Cream Tea, weather permitting! This event is complimentary for paid-up members and bona fide guests. We will, however, be making a collection for our Annual Appeal so if you are able to make a donation please bring some cash with you on the day. Our appeal is for Hope for Food, a local food bank, and the Uganda Humanist Schools Trust. The address will be provided when you confirm that you are coming. There is no parking immediately outside the venue but there is parking in nearby streets or car parks. If you have any spare fold up chairs please bring them with you. Email chairman@dorsethumanists.co.uk or phone David on 07910 886629 to confirm.



Sex and Gender in the Early Church

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

This engaging talk will explore how early Christian communities understood and navigated issues of sex, gender roles, and identity. Our speaker will shed light on the theological, cultural, and social influences that shaped early Christian views and practices. We will discover how these historical perspectives continue to influence contemporary discussions on sex and gender within the church.

George Askwith is a former committee member of Dorset Humanists. She takes a leading role in Humanist UK's *Faith to Faithless* community group which provides support to people leaving high control religions.



Stoicism for Humanists: Harnessing Ancient Philosophy for Today

David Warden
Wednesday 24th July 7.30pm *West Cliff Hotel*

In a world filled with constant change and uncertainty, the ancient philosophy of Stoicism offers timeless wisdom that can greatly benefit today's humanists. Building on David's recent talk on human flourishing, this talk will present some of the practical teachings of Stoic philosophers such as Marcus Aurelius, Seneca, and Epictetus, exploring how their insights align with humanist values of reason, empathy, and resilience.

David is Chairman of Dorset Humanists and he has given talks on a wide range of topics including the science of happiness.



Intergenerational Justice: Do Future Generations Have Rights?

Dr Barry Newman
Wednesday 28th August 7.30pm *West Cliff Hotel*

Do future generations possess rights or have any moral claim on those of us living today? Should we limit our own happiness and make sacrifices to ensure a sustainable and equitable world for future generations? Philosophers have responded in a variety of different ways to these difficult questions. Barry's talk will highlight some key philosophical themes, encouraging reflection on our ethical obligations towards those yet to be born. Barry is a retired intensive care consultant and he regularly speaks in local schools about humanism.



Free Thought: History and Future

Dr Emma Park
Wednesday 25th September 7.30pm
West Cliff Hotel

This talk will delve into the evolution of intellectual freedom, tracing its roots from ancient philosophy through the Enlightenment to modern times. Our speaker will illuminate the pivotal moments and key figures who challenged prevailing norms, championing reason, scepticism, and secularism. We will discover how free thought has shaped contemporary society and its enduring significance in promoting critical inquiry and human rights. Perfect for history enthusiasts, philosophy buffs, and anyone interested in the ongoing quest for intellectual liberty.

Dr Emma Park is former editor of *The Freethinker* magazine.



WALKS

Full details on Meetup.com

More walks coming soon! We love to experience the wonders of the Dorset landscape and beyond and to deepen friendships as we benefit from fresh air and exercise. If you have a tried and tested walk of around six or seven miles please let us know.

Please join Dorset Humanists on Meetup for full details and to be notified of any changes owing to bad weather.

Contact David 07910 886629



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.