



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 the default worldview of most people who do not worship imaginary gods. At Dorset Humanists, we aim to raise awareness of what this means for us in our everyday lives as we try to understand the world's challenges and make the world a better place.

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 nearly thirty 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 inform people about 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

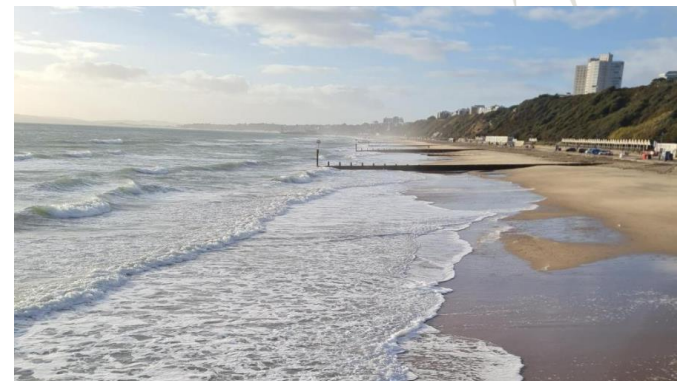
Moon in the Square 4-8 Exeter Rd, Bournemouth BH2 5AQ



EVENTS PROGRAMME



April – June 2025



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☎ 07910 886629



How much power should society have over us? John Stuart Mill on liberty and its limits *Dr Peter Connolly*
Saturday 12th April 2.00pm *Moordown*

The University of Sussex was recently fined £585,000 by the Office for Students (the independent regulator of higher education in England) after an investigation found it had failed to uphold freedom of speech. This case highlights the fact that freedom of expression, and individual freedom more generally, has become a battleground. But the problem is not a new one. The philosopher and liberal MP John Stuart Mill dissected the dilemmas of freedom in his celebrated work *On Liberty* in 1859 – the same year as Darwin’s *Origin of Species*. Peter Connolly, a member of Dorset Humanists, will explain how Mill’s arguments remain highly relevant today.



Technofeudalism
Winston Smith
Wednesday 23rd April 7.30pm *West Cliff Hotel*

In an age dominated by tech giants, are we witnessing the rise of ‘technofeudalism’? As corporations amass unprecedented power—tracking our every move, shaping public discourse, and profiting from our data—is human flourishing for the majority increasingly at risk? Governments seem unable to regulate these behemoths, leaving the public dependent upon a few corporate overlords for work, communication, and essential services. Are we becoming serfs under a system of total control? Join us for a compelling analysis of this new world order and what can be done about it.



Third Sunday WALKS
Full details on Meetup.com

Sunday 20th April 10.15am Bournemouth Beach Walk, approximately 4.5 miles, medium difficulty including some cliff steps.

Sunday 18th May 10.15am Pines and Chines 8.5 miles with a halfway opt out point

Sunday 15th June 10.15am Old Harry Rocks
Full details on Meetup. Contact David 07910 886629



The Seven Deadly Sins
Simon Whipple
Saturday 10th May 2.00pm *Moordown*

When Simon Whipple first planned this talk, he intended to present a light-hearted look at a religious curiosity with little relevance to modern life. However, his research revealed that the Seven Deadly Sins remain just as relevant to ethical thought today as they were in sixth-century Christianity. In this illustrated talk, Simon will explore the origins of the Seven Deadly Sins and their role in Catholic doctrine, inviting you to consider whether they still offer a useful way to classify human flaws in the modern world.

Simon is a member of our committee. This talk was initially scheduled for December 2024 but had to be postponed.



What is beauty?
Dr Barry Newman
Wednesday 28th May 7.30pm *West Cliff Hotel*

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion on one of humanity’s oldest and most debated questions—what is beauty? Is it universal or personal, objective or subjective? We all think we know it when we see it, but can we agree on what defines it? Led by Barry Newman, a retired intensive care consultant, this interactive session invites you to share your views and explore perspectives from philosophy, art, science, and modern culture. Come prepared for an engaging conversation with fellow humanists as we unravel this fascinating conundrum together. All perspectives welcome!



First Thursday PUB 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?



Exploring Paganism
Megan Manson
Saturday 14th June 2.00pm *Moordown*

Megan Manson will present an informative overview of key beliefs and practices within modern Paganism and why it seems to resonate with so many British people in the 21st century. She acknowledges that religion is subjective and will not be attempting to convince anyone of the ‘truth’ of Paganism. She may touch on some of the potentially harmful elements of Paganism and related beliefs. Drawing on her personal experiences, Megan will share what Paganism means to her.

Megan Manson is an excellent speaker and this is her second visit to Dorset Humanists.



Origins of the Universe: A Humanist-Christian Dialogue
Geoff Kirby, Ron March, and Dave Pegg
Wednesday 25th June 7.30pm *West Cliff Hotel*

Come along to a friendly and thought-provoking panel discussion on the origins of the universe, featuring perspectives from both humanists and Christians. Representing the Christian viewpoint is Dave, while Ron and Geoff will share their humanist perspectives. The discussion will explore key themes such as the fine-tuning argument and the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God, and arguments in favour of Deism. This event offers a respectful space for dialogue, examining whether the universe’s origins point to a divine creator or can be explained through natural processes. Bring your questions and join the conversation!



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 will be hosted by committee member Sandra Lucie-Smith. Please note that bar prices are a bit higher than Wetherspoons.
Friday 16th May 2025 7.30pm
Friday 20th June 2025 7.30pm
Friday 18th July 2025 7.30pm

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