



***“Take the risk of thinking for yourself – much more happiness, truth, beauty, and wisdom will come to you that way” Christopher Hitchens***

Dorset Humanists pride ourselves on having a broad and positive agenda of activities which stimulate our thinking and our understanding of what it means to be human.

In our new season we'll be looking at some major challenges for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century including income inequality and the ethics of war. We'll also be considering whether the technology of the future will enable us to conquer ageing and possibly even death itself. Is this transhumanism a blueprint for a realisable Utopia, or a nightmare vision of the future?

We will be welcoming back John Strafford, political author, blogger, and Chairman of the Campaign for Conservative Democracy to explore whether the monarchy and an established church are compatible with democracy.

In February, we're delighted to announce that Robin Ince will be our very special guest speaker for our annual Darwin Day Lunch. Robin was Winner of the *Time Out* Award for Outstanding Achievement in Comedy.

Everyone is welcome to attend our public events and I hope you'll join us in the year ahead.

If you like what we do, and share our interests and values, please consider membership, enabling you to participate in determining group activities, elect committee members, and support our work.

David Warden  
Chairman

### Free Entry!

Entry to most events in this programme is free to members and non-members alike, although we do appreciate an optional small donation of around £1 towards venue hire.

### Parking

Turn up early to enjoy free on-site parking, including parking for Disabled Badge Holders. Additional street parking also available nearby. Excellent bus routes through Moordown.

### Mailing List

To receive monthly bulletins and regular updates, enter your email details on the website, or email us.

### Website

[www.dorsethumanists.co.uk](http://www.dorsethumanists.co.uk)

### Facebook

 [facebook.com/groups/dorsethumanists](https://facebook.com/groups/dorsethumanists)

### Email

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

### Annual Membership £12 (Students £5)

For an information pack and membership details, phone 01202 428506, or see website.

### Information

Please check our monthly bulletin for any changes to this programme. The bulletin is published on our website and can also be posted or emailed to you.

Presentations last around 90 minutes.

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

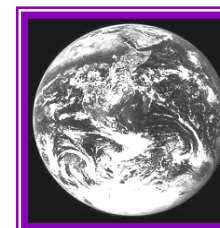
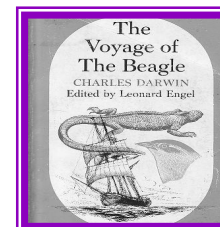
Refreshments can be purchased in Moordown Community Centre café.

# Dorset Humanists

SKEPTICAL ENQUIRY – SCIENCE – ETHICS – DEMOCRACY  
ENVIRONMENT – SECULARISM – HUMAN RIGHTS

## Events Programme

Oct 2011 – Mar 2012



## Talks, Debates Discussions

Moordown Community Centre, Coronation Avenue  
Moordown, Bournemouth. BH9 1TW

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Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

## Transhumanism - Nightmare or Utopia?

Chris Street

Transhumanism is the belief that we can fundamentally improve the human condition by developing technologies to eliminate ageing and greatly enhance our intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities. Is it ethical to tamper with nature in this way?

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Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm

## Monarchy, Republicanism, and the Church of England

John Strafford

Is our current political system morally bankrupt? The United Kingdom is a long-established democracy but political author, John Strafford, in his book '*Our Fight for Democracy*', argues that we now face a huge democratic deficit. In this talk John will explore the compatibility of monarchy, republicanism, and the Church of England with democracy.

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Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm

## Compassionate Eating

Sandra Hood

Nutritionist Sandra Hood from local charity 'Compassionate Dorset' explores the ethics of what we eat. Discover how the food you choose affects animal welfare and global development.

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Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm

## Inequality Harms Everyone

Kathryn Busby of the Equality Trust

People in more equal societies live longer, have better mental health and are more socially mobile. UK income inequality is among the highest in the developed world and evidence suggests it is essential we take action now to reduce the gap between rich and poor, and build a better society.

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Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2.00pm

## The Campaign Against Faith Schools

Richy Thompson

Churches desperate to reverse the trend towards secularism are controlling increasing numbers of schools but is it really the job of publicly funded schools to instill their parents' religious beliefs in children? Education Campaigner, Richy Thompson explains why faith schools are 'unnecessary, discriminatory and divisive', and provides a progress update on the continuing campaign against faith schools.

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Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm

## The Limits of Morality?

David Warden and Matt Coussell

In the 1970s, Australian philosopher Peter Singer helped launch the worldwide animal rights movement with his book '*Animal Liberation*'. He has also done significant work developing and popularising arguments which he hopes will solicit vastly more aid for the world's poor. But is he justified in suggesting we are morally obliged to sacrifice many of our modern pleasures to reduce suffering? Are there limits to the demands that morality can make on us? Come and join us for what promises to be a lively discussion as we investigate the radical ethical philosophy of Peter Singer.

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Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 12.00

## An Audience with Robin Ince

At the Bournemouth International Centre  
(Charges apply / Ticketholders only)

We will be celebrating Darwin Day in style at Bournemouth International Centre with a delicious lunch followed by entertainment from award-winning comedian, Robin Ince. Robin's passion for science combined with his incisive observational comedy make him the perfect choice for this year's Darwin Day celebration'. Robin has been a regular attraction at the Edinburgh Fringe, has toured with Brian Cox, Ben Goldacre and Simon Singh in the science spectacular, 'Uncaged Monkeys', and has written for Ricky Gervais.

For further details including ticket prices see our website, or contact us.

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Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7.30pm

## Darwin's Commander: the Life of Robert FitzRoy RN

David Croman

Continuing our Darwin theme, David Croman will present the life of Vice-Admiral Robert FitzRoy who achieved lasting fame as the captain of *HMS Beagle* during Charles Darwin's famous voyage. David Croman is a psychologist and a former Chair of Dorset Humanists.

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Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm

## Annual General Meeting

Dorset Humanists Committee

Reports and discussions on our activities over the past year and our plans and priorities for the year ahead.

The AGM provides a great opportunity for all members to influence how Dorset Humanists grows and develops in the future, so please do come along and have your say.

If you would like to propose a motion for debate and vote at the AGM, or nominate yourself or another member for a committee position, please contact us.

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Dorset Humanists is a local community group affiliated to the British Humanist Association.

Our aim is to promote important values such as skeptical enquiry, critical reasoning, ethics, democracy, secularism and human rights.

We provide a social forum and a programme of stimulating events for local people who share our aims.

We have friendship links with similar groups in America, Africa and India, and have financially assisted groups who are struggling against prejudice and discrimination.

Our fully trained humanist celebrants are available to meet your needs for non-religious ceremonies and funerals.

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