



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

Christopher Hitchens was an uncompromising advocate of reason and freedom. He was a champion of ‘New Atheism’ and regularly debated with Christians, including Tony Blair and Oxford theologian Alister McGrath. In a similar spirit, we are really looking forward to debating Christian beliefs with students from Moorlands Bible College (Christchurch). These debates will be hosted by Bournemouth Students Humanist and Atheist Society at Bournemouth University. In April, we’ll also be welcoming Dr Tom Rees to help us understand the psychology of religion.

In February, comedian 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. We also look forward to welcoming back David Croman, a former Chair of Dorset Humanists, to tell us about the extraordinary life of Robert Fitzroy.

Continuing our explorations into ethics, Phil Brooke from Compassion in World Farming will be raising our awareness of how the food we eat is produced, and scientist James Fradgley will help us unravel the apparent contradiction of altruism and the ‘selfish gene’.

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

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

David Warden
Chairman, Dorset Humanists

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 or £2 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

Facebook

 facebook.com/groups/dorsethumanists

Email

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 details and 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.

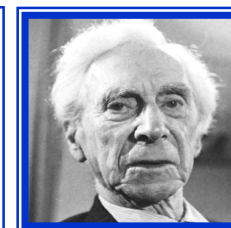
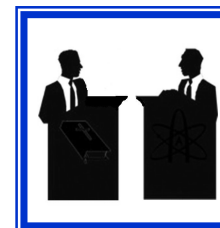
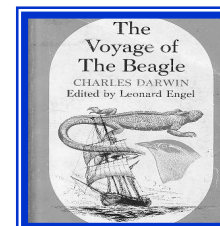
Refreshments can be purchased in Moordown Community Centre café.

Dorset Humanists

SCEPTICAL ENQUIRY – ETHICS – HUMAN RIGHTS – DEMOCRACY
ATHEISM – SCIENCE – ENVIRONMENT – SECULARISM

Events Programme

February – June 2012



Talks, Debates Discussions

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

Saturday, 11th 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.

Thursday 23rd February 7.30pm

The Extraordinary Life of Robert Fitzroy: Darwin's Commander

David Croman

David 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.

FitzRoy is often caricatured as the villain in the Darwin story, due to his opposition to 'Darwin's dangerous idea' but in this we do a grave injustice to a talented and colourful character who was one of the last great explorers, a scientific pioneer and a humanitarian. David Croman is a psychologist and a former Chair of Dorset Humanists.

Saturday, 10th March 2.00pm

Annual General Meeting

Dorset Humanists Committee

Reports and discussions on our activities over the past year and 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.

Thursday 22nd March 7.30pm

Are Christian Beliefs Unreasonable?

At Shelley Lecture Theatre, Bournemouth University*

In the first of our atheist vs. Christian debates, Dorset Humanists will challenge the rationality of Christian doctrine. We warmly welcome students from Moorlands Bible College, who will be defending their beliefs.

Saturday, 14th April 2.00pm

Religion Explained: Why some people just can't help believing

Dr Tom Rees

Why do some people believe in God and religion whilst others do not? Why are some countries more religious than others? Tom Rees will explore the psychology of belief and evidence of a link between belief and stressful living conditions. Dr Rees is a medical writer, a columnist for 'Free Inquiry' magazine, and co-founder of Humanists4Science.

Thursday 26th April 7.30pm

Did Jesus Really Exist?

At Shelley Lecture Theatre, Bournemouth University*

Most people take it for granted that Jesus of Nazareth was a real historical figure but this assumption is being increasingly called into question by a number of scholars.

Once again, we go head-to-head with students from Moorlands Bible College, and debate the evidence for and against the historicity of Jesus.

Saturday, 12th May 2.00pm

Cruel Food

Phil Brooke

'Compassion in World Farming' was founded over 40 years ago by a British farmer who became horrified by the development of modern, intensive factory farming. Its lobbying and campaigning has resulted in the EU recognising animals as sentient beings capable of feeling pain and suffering. It has also secured landmark agreements to outlaw the battery cage for egg-laying hens, narrow veal crates and sow stalls across Europe.

Thursday 24th May 7.30pm

Altruism and the Selfish Gene

James Fradgley

What do we mean by 'altruism' and how can we explain this type of behaviour if we are made of 'selfish genes'?

Scientist James Fradgley looks for answers in an intriguing variety of places including genetics, statistics, multicellular organisms, social structures, philosophical dilemmas and religion.

Saturday, 9th June 2.00pm

Bombs, Bloomsbury and Bertrand Russell

David Warden, Chair of Dorset Humanists

Bertrand Russell was one of the greatest rationalists of the twentieth century. The grandson of a Prime Minister, he did pioneering work in mathematics and philosophy as well as campaigning for women's suffrage and against nuclear war. He was twice imprisoned for his activities and married four times. David will explore this great life.

Information

All events are at Moordown Community Centre unless otherwise indicated.

* Debates take place in Shelley Lecture Theatre, Poole House, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University BH12 5BB. Ask for directions at Reception or follow the signs on campus.



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

Our aim is to promote important values such as sceptical 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.