



THE SOCIETY OF DORSET MEN



NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN - 2025

Guest speaker at County Dinner 2026

The Society is delighted to have secured the services of Tobias Ellwood to be the guest speaker at the 2026 County Dinner. Lieutenant-Colonel Tobias Ellwood VR PC has strong links to the County, having been Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East from 2005 to 2024. No longer a Member of Parliament, he has in his military capacity as an officer in the Army Reserve, a further connection with Dorset as the Honorary Colonel for The Rifles for this area.



Tobias was born in 1966, is married and has two sons. His wife Hannah is a corporate lawyer. His brother, Johnathan, was sadly killed in the Bali Bombing in 2002.

In March 2017, Tobias achieved hero status for his prompt reaction during a terrorist attack in London, when he gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR to a policeman who had been shot in the precincts of Parliament. Sadly, it was to no avail, Keith Palmer later dying of his wounds. Tobias was appointed to the Privy Council.

We look forward to welcoming Tobias to our 'Annual Veast' and to hearing him speak and we hope as many members as possible will avail themselves of that opportunity.

Dates for your Diary

Annual General Meeting

Dorset Golf and Country Club

Bere Regis BH20 7NT

Sunday 26th October, 2025

Lunch 12.15 for 12.45pm - Meeting 1.45pm

Christmas Lunch

The Crown Hotel, Blandford (see page 4)

Sunday 7th December, 2025

12.15 for 12.45pm

County Dinner,

Saturday 16th May, 2026

Details to be announced in the New Year

VJ Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration at County Hall

Dorset Council held a moving commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day at the Memorial Garden at County Hall, Dorchester at which the Society were represented. Our President, Angus Campbell laid a wreath on behalf of the Society and the address was given by one of our members, Christopher Jary. The part of the 2nd Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment in the Battle of Kohima is indelibly inscribed in the history of the war in the far east, in the history of the Regiment and of the County. The text of Christopher's address appears in full in the 2026 Dorset Year Book to be published in November.



Left - The President, Angus Campbell, awaits his turn to lay the Society's wreath .

Right - The Chairman, Peter Lush, and member Christopher Jary, await the start of the Service

(Photos - KeeP 106)



Chairman Peter Lush also attended and is seen wearing the scarf presented to him by a Naga tribesman during his recent visit to the battlefield. The scarf is in traditional Naga colours and was weaved by the tribesman himself. The Nagas were a head-hunting tribe who greatly assisted the Allies at Kohima, but, as can be seen from the picture, this old barbaric activity has long since ceased - the chairman still has his head!

Events Past

A **Walking History Tour of Dorchester** was conducted by Mark Chutter, Chairman of the Hardy Society, on Sunday 29th June, when about two dozen members and friends learned much about familiar parts of the town and even more about parts about which they knew little. The event was followed by a cream tea in the Museum.

Founders Day was observed at the graves in Dorchester Cemetery by Rev John Travell, accompanied by Peter Lush, Hayne Russell and a member of the public.

The **Visit to Forde Abbey** took place on Wednesday 30th July and is best recorded by an email from Chris Goodinge - "Just back from an excellent visit to Forde Abbey. 10 members and wives etc. Enjoyed the beautiful gardens, the spectacular fountain, the most interesting and impressive house and very good food in the cafe. The plants available for sale are of superb quality and a reasonable price. All in all a very successful day out. Sadly the numbers are very disappointing."

Disappointing numbers was also the story of the proposed **Windsor and Thames River Cruise**, which resulted in the event being cancelled, although there was some consolation when the day turned out damp, cold and miserable.

In Committee

The committee met on 18th September, its first business being to accept, with regret, the resignation of John Beashel Who had found it difficult to attend meetings due to other commitments.

A report was given on the progress of the 2026 Year Book. All is on track for the edition to be produced in early November. Members of the committee were sharing the task.

The Treasurer presented a report on the financial situation which showed the Society to be in a stable financial position. An unspent sum in the grants budget of £1420 would be carried forward to next year.

The Membership Secretary reported two new members had joined, but one had resigned and one had died. Total core membership was 666, but 58 others were being followed up regarding their status.

Attendance at events had been challenging and the committee looked ahead to next year. Tobias Ellwood had agreed to be the Guest Speaker at the County Dinner. (Separate reports appear elsewhere in this newsletter)

Charitable donations were made during the year to Gillingham Youth Club (£250), Loaders Youth Club (£250), North Dorset Women's Refuge (£270) and Dorset Echo Christmas Appeal (£100). Donations of £500 each were agreed for next year to DCH Critical Care Appeal, Weldmar Hospice, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and Dorset Community Foundation.

The committee meets next on **20th January, 2026**. Any matter a member may wish to be discussed should be sent to the Secretary, Steve Newman, at steveplov@yahoo.co.uk

Odds and Ends

The Year Book has been produced this year by the Committee, but we are still looking for a volunteer to take on the task next year. Email editor@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk

The 2026 Year Book is complete, with some contributions carried over, but articles for the 2027 edition would be welcomed. editor@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk

There will be two vacancies on the Committee following the AGM. Any member who wishes to be considered for co-option should email steveplov@yahoo.co.uk

Next year's events will be considered at the Committee meeting in January. Any suggestions for outings, visits, meetings etc. are most welcome. chrisgoodinge@hotmail.com

Members are invited to suggest the names of Dorset-based charities who may be worthy of a donation from the Society next year. alanholley302@gmail.com



CROWN HOTEL, BLANDFORD

Society of Dorset Men Christmas Lunch

Sunday 7th December, 2025

12.15 for 12.45 pm

STARTERS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| [A] | CHICKEN LIVER PATE
Toasted bagel
Onion chutney | ROAST CUMIN
CAULIFLOWER SALAD
Served with garlic yoghurt &
pomegranate molasses (PB V) | [C] |
| [B] | SMOKED TROUT SALAD
Free range egg, new potatoes,
garlic aioli, chicory | WILD MUSHROOM SOUP
Italian-style bread (PB V) | [D] |

MAINS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| [E] | ROAST TURKEY in PROSCUITTO
Roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, pig in
blanket, seasonal vegetables, and gravy | NO-NUT ROAST
Seasonal vegetables, potatoes,
Yorkshire pudding, gravy (PB V) | [G] |
| [F] | GAMMON SHANK
Orange glaze, mash, tenderstem broccoli,
Roasted carrots | SEA BASS RISOTTO
Served with buttered leeks &
Roasted mushrooms. | [H] |

PUDDINGS

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|-----|
| [J] | CHRISTMAS PUDDING
Served with custard (V) | RASPBERRY & GIN CHEESECAKE
Mint syrup, vanilla ice cream (PB V) | [L] |
| [K] | GINGER STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING
Stout toffee sauce, vanilla ice cream (V) | | |

(V) VEGETARIAN made with vegetarian ingredients

(PB) PLANT BASED made with plant based ingredients, but they may not be suitable for guests with milk or egg allergies

£39.00 per person
(coffee not included)

NB – Menu choices (eg BLOGGS A - E - J) should be sent to Paul Newman
(mogwich@hotmail.com) or post to 37, West Street, Bere Regis, Wareham, BH20 7HJ

Payment should be made in advance using BACS to:-

Society of Dorset Men
Account number 21182226
Sort Code 40-46-23

Please quote reference 'Xmas Lunch'

(For those members not using internet banking please email Paul Newman
- details above - for alternative payment method)