



THE SOCIETY OF DORSET MEN



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER - 2025

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Once again, we find ourselves seeking an editor for the Dorset Year Book. This is an important cog in the wheel of our Society and we need a member with a certain amount of time and, ideally, a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, to take on the task. The present edition is being prepared by a small team and they will be there to help in future. If you fancy the challenge, please contact the Secretary for further details.

We are also still looking for articles for the 2026 Year Book and these should be sent to editor@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk and a plea for members advertisements appears elsewhere in this Newsletter

I would like to remind you again that booking is open for the Thames River Trip and although it is not until September 3rd, it is IMPORTANT that bookings are made as soon as possible as the organisation of transport is a complicated business and the numbers travelling and their home locations are vital to know early.

THE DORSET AWARD

The Dorset Award was introduced in 2016 and its first recipient was Professor Denys Brunsden OBE who was a key figure in gaining UNESCO World Heritage status for the now-famous prehistoric coastline in Dorset and east Devon. His knowledge and expertise in the field was second to none and his willingness to support others, especially students and those developing their skills and craft were well known. The second winner, in 2021, was Dr John Murden who, as curator of the Dorset Museum, was instrumental in arranging for 'Dippy', the Diplodocus, to be displayed in the main hall there, bringing thousands of people to the county. John moved to the Beaulieu National Motor Museum later that year.

At its inception it was stated that this "prestigious new Dorset Award is intended to recognise exceptional achievement which enhances the reputation of the County and will be awarded again on an occasional basis by the Committee if and when another exceptional Dorset personality is identified". The granting of a third award was hampered by the restrictions surrounding Covid and whilst it is not an annual award and is for exceptional achievement only, sight of it should not be lost. Should any member wish to propose a worthy name for recognition they should do so, in confidence, to the Secretary, Steve Newman.



SNIPPETS

YEAR BOOK ADVERTISING - As you will have seen elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Committee is preparing the 2026 Year Book. Some of our members are advertising their businesses annually, as you will have seen in previous editions.

If you would like to explore placing an advertisement for your enterprise in the Year Book, please contact our Treasurer, Paul Newman, by email mogwich@hotmail.com to find out more and how much it would cost.

COMMITTEE. The next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 3rd. July, 2025. If you have any matter which you would like discussed, please email the Secretary at steveplo@yahoo.co.uk

The new **WEBSITE** is up and running and is much improved. It is managed by Steve Newman and can be up-dated instantly. Notices and details of events are posted regularly and the archive items will always repay a visit.

The sum of £270 was raised by the raffle at the County Dinner and will be added to the **CHARITY FUND** for distribution. Donations have been agreed to be made to Youth Clubs in Bridport and Gillingham and approaches have been made by Dorset County Hospital and St John the Evangelist Church, Enmore Green, the church where Gordon Hine worshipped. The committee will discuss these at their next meeting.

Current paid-up **MEMBERSHIP** stands at 660, with seven new members since the last Newsletter and only two deaths recorded. We now have seven lady members.

VISIT TO FORDE ABBEY

The visit to **FORDE ABBEY** takes place on Wednesday 30th July, 2025. The Abbey is a popular destination for families, garden lovers and historians. We will meet in the free car park at 11.00 am. There will be a House Tour followed by a walk in the garden. Lunch will be in the Abbots Table café, where you can make your own choice from the menu which can be viewed on www.fordeabbey.co.uk/the-abbots-table-café. For those who have the energy, further time may be spent in the garden in the afternoon. The cost is **£19.00** for the house and garden tour - pay for your own lunch on the day. Reservations should be made as per the instructions at the foot of page 4 of this Newsletter.



EVENTS PAST

The COUNTY DINNER was held at the George Albert Hotel, near Dorchester, on Saturday 10th May and over eighty members and guests enjoyed a most pleasant evening. The Guest Speaker was the new Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Professor Michael Dooley, ably supported by his predecessor and our President, Angus Campbell. A full report will appear in the Dorset Year Book, but here are a few photographs as a reminder of the event.



<
Lady members
attended for the
first time



>
Guest speaker
Professor Michael
Dooley



<
The Chairman
proposes the toast
to the President

>
MC Jacque Hall
leads in the
President and
Michael Dooley



The competition for the HAMBRO CUP was played at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester, on Wednesday 21st May, 2025, when a field of around twenty members took to the fairways in somewhat inclement weather. The winner was DAVID UPSHALL with a very respectable score of 40 points. This is a most appropriate result as David organises and sponsors the event most generously and so was able to take home something other than the usual headache. Well done, David.



IMPORTANT NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The HAMBRO CUP will be played for on **Wednesday 13th May 2026** and the COUNTY DINNER held on **Saturday 16th May 2026**. The Cup always preceded the Dinner when introduced in 1928. It is planned that the Dinner be held on the third Saturday in May each year in future.

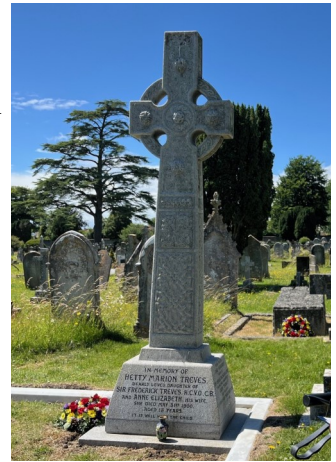
EVENTS FUTURE

Walking History Tour of Dorchester

Guided Tour by Mark Chutter (Chair of the Thomas Hardy Society) (free) and Cream Tea (pay on the day). Maximum 30. **Sunday 29th June, 2025**. Meet 1.45pm County Hall Car Park (next to Colliton Club) DT1 1XJ

Founders Day

Dorchester Cemetery, Weymouth Avenue, **Sunday 6th July at 12.00 noon** (please note the new time) and this year will be celebrated by a simple 20 minute service at the graves of Sir Frederick Treves and William Watkins in Dorchester Cemetery on Weymouth Avenue. The service will be led by our chaplain, John Travell and commence at **12 noon**. Members are invited to attend. Last year saw the re-dedication of the Treves memorial and this year is the centenary of the death of William Watkins. He had visited Thomas Hardy at Max Gate that afternoon and died that night at the King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester. Later, discussing the circumstances with Lawrence of Arabia, Hardy had remarked on the strange behaviour of his dog during Watkins' visit. Lawrence replied by repeating the old Arab proverb "It is the dog that sees the Angel of Death first."



Visit to Forde Abbey House and Gardens

Wednesday 30th July, 2025. Please see separate item on previous page.

Windsor and Thames River Cruise

Wednesday 3rd. September, 2025. Cost £70, includes a ploughman's lunch and transport.

Departing Windsor at 11 am, this two hour round trip with lunch provides excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College. After passing Windsor Racecourse, the boat goes through Boveney Lock and past Sutherland Grange, The Willows and Bray Film Studios, then to Monkey Island before returning to Windsor.

Traditional Ploughman's Lunch - English Cheddar Cheese - Slice of finest ham -Pork pie - Cole slaw - Green salad with apples and tomatoes -Pickled onion, gherkins and pickle - Roll and butter - Slice of cake - Cup of tea or coffee.

Whilst it may seem early to be committing to this, please bear in mind that the success of the venture depends very much on a sufficient number of members and their guests participating. There are minimum numbers involved for both the transport to Windsor and the boat trip itself and so the organisers will appreciate a paid-up booking from you as soon as possible. Naturally, should the venture, for any reason, not run, there will be a full refund of any money paid. Early booking will also facilitate the planning of the transport for those members attending.

Further details can be obtained by email to chrisgoodinge@hotmail.com

Bookings should be made to the Treasurer mogwich@hotmail.com

Pay 'Society of Dorset Men' by bank transfer to 40-46-23 A/c 21182226

For those not using internet banking, please email the Treasurer for
alternative arrangements