



THE SOCIETY OF DORSET MEN

FOUNDED JULY 7th, 1904

Newsletter February 2020. Issue 31



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

Greetins to 'ee all an' these be t' last time you'm be 'avin t' put up wi' I rabbitin' on t' 'ee all! Yes, sadly this will be my last offering to you as your Hon Sec and at the next AGM I shall be handing over to my replacement. When I took over the role in 2004 it was with much apprehension and some trepidation because I had a formidable act to follow in the late Gordon Hine who had reigned supreme for 25 years. However, with much help from the committee and the support of the membership it has turned out to be a joyful and rewarding experience. Along the way, I have met and enjoyed the company of many members and it has been a pleasure to share the common bond which exists between us all in our love of "Dorset our County" I hope that I am able to hand over the reins of a Society which is in good order and hopefully will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Your new Hon Sec Steve Newman is one of the younger members of the Society and you will find his profile and photograph included in the Newsletter. I wish him well and will be on hand, of course, to give as much support and help that he might need in what can be quite a challenging role. Also, you will not have lost sight of me completely because I shall be continuing to organise our events and the County Dinner because the Committee have very sensibly decided that the administrative function and that of organising events should be split. You will, therefore see from the "Society dates for your Diary" that as an experiment this coming year there will be a number of extra events solely for the benefit of members residing in specific areas of the County. This will reduce travelling and hopefully attract members who might like to participate in something different and by the time this Newsletter has been received the first of these, will have seen the Purbeck members have their dinner at Purbeck Golf Club. I will finish by paying a tribute to my wife Pat to whom I and the Society owe a debt of gratitude because she has been such a huge help to me over the years with her advice and assistance in so many ways.

Instead of my usual Dorset dialect joke I shall offer a more sober piece which reflects my love of Dorset.

Dorset our County, Fairest of Counties
Home of our Childhood, Our haven on earth
How our heart yearns for thee, How our hearts turn for thee
Dorset our County, Land of our Birth!

Thy true vriend an' zarvent

Hayne Russell, Hon Sec (Retiring)



STEVE NEWMAN - OUR NEW HON. SEC.

I feel very proud to be the eleventh Honorary Secretary to the Society. I was born and bred and still live in Weymouth, and have worked in Dorchester for the majority of my working life. Dorset is a truly wonderful place and I am looking forward to contributing to the Society's aim of fostering love and pride in the county, its history and its culture.

IN THE EDITOR'S VIEW

Overheard in Wareham market recently: "This is the only thing that makes living in Wareham bearable!"

I don't know who the lady is who said it but, had I heard it myself I would have challenged her to say exactly what made Wareham so hellish that its only virtue is its market.

When, in past years my wife and I visited the town we always found it charming and, since moving to Stoborough just over two years ago, we have found on closer acquaintance that it is indeed a very pleasant place to live.

Of course I am aware that the same virtues that make Wareham so pleasant to live in can no doubt be found in many (if not all) of the towns and villages in the county. I'm sure that those places, like Wareham, have vibrant social lives with their choirs, gardening clubs and amateur dramatic societies.

Assuming that the lady is a resident and not a visitor (although according to my wife she sounded like one) her life must be miserable indeed if the place she lives in is so deficient in the things she finds necessary for her happiness! So, if, in the unlikely event she reads this I suggest she moves back to Chelsea, or some other place, that can provide those necessities!

Newsletter contributions are welcome, please email: john@jandpneimer.plus.com

THE 2020 HAMBRO CUP

The annual golf tournament for Society members, known as the Hambro Cup, has been arranged for Wednesday 1st July 2020 at Came Down Golf Club. The competition will be an 18-hole stableford and is open to players of all handicaps. Play will take place in the morning followed by a ham, eggs and chips meal (or vegetarian alternative).

There will be a standard entry fee of £15 to include the lunch, partly to encourage non-Came Down members and also to allow for a small prize fund (e.g. for nearest the pin and some other prizes, the honour of having one's name engraved on the famous old cup still being the main prize).

Full details and an entry form will be sent out nearer the date.

THE 2021 YEAR BOOK - A note from the Editor

I hope that members and other readers enjoyed the 2020 Year Book and found it interesting and entertaining. I'm now working on the 2021 edition and am making good progress but I very much need your inputs. You are all familiar with the general style and format – basically anything at all to do with Dorset, or your opinions or experiences of Dorset – so if you can contribute in any way do please let me have your submissions.

In putting the book together I try to get a balanced coverage across the whole county, but at the moment I'm short of material from Bournemouth and Christchurch in the east, from Lyme Regis and Bridport in the west, and from Sherborne and Shaftesbury in the north.

So, all of you, and particularly any of you from the above areas, do please let me have your items – that's factual articles, histories, biographies, fictional stories, experiences, opinions, songs, poems – ANYTHING PLEASE!

Remember that you can get me on my landline at 01305 459268 or by email at wright1941@btinternet.com.

With many thanks. Nick Wright, Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th March	Purbeck Dinner at Purbeck G.C. (For Purbeck members)	14th May	Evening visit to The Shire Hall Museum, Dorchester with Supper. (For Dorchester/Weymouth members)
12th March	Committee Meeting	July/August	Events for North Dorset members being finalised. (Guided tour & film show etc.)
18th April	Treves/Watkins Remembrance Ceremony at Weymouth Avenue Cemetery, Dorchester	24th October	County Dinner at the George Albert Hotel, Evershot near Dorchester
26th April	AGM & Lunch at The Rembrandt Hotel, Dorchester Road, Weymouth	6th December	Xmas Lunch & Carols

SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCH

SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2020

12:15 for 12:45

COST £26

The 116th AGM will be held at The Rembrandt Hotel, Dorchester Road, Weymouth DT4 7JU on Sunday 26th April. As usual the meeting will be preceded by a lunch and menu is shown below.

Please make your application for the lunch on the pro forma included with your Newsletter and forward together with your cheque to the Hon Sec.

H Russell, 34 Brunel Drive, Preston, Weymouth DT3 6QZ

There is ample parking at the hotel at the front and in the rear.

MAIN
Roast Sirloin of beef served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding creamed horseradish,
Dorset watercress and rich pan gravy with a selection of vegetables

Goats' cheese and Butternut Squash puree filled with wild mushrooms, spinach and shallots
served with truffle cream sauce and a selection of vegetables

DESSERT

Apple and Blackberry Crumble served with custard

OR

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake with summer berries and strawberry coulis

Tea/Coffee

The AGM will commence at around 2.30p.m. Dr Paul Atterbury Deputy President will be in the Chair.

THE THOMAS HARDY SOCIETY, Festival and Conference at Dorchester

2020 marks the 180th anniversary of Thomas Hardy's birth and the 150th anniversary of his first visit to Cornwall. Therefore, the Thomas Hardy Society will be holding its Twenty Fourth International Festival and Conference in Dorchester between SATURDAY 11TH JULY and SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2020 to celebrate both the fiction of one of England's greatest novelist and the wonderful Wessex landscape which inspired him.

The Festival and Conference will be based at Sunninghill School, West Walks, Dorchester and there will be both an academic and entertainment programme throughout the week together with guided walks and tours of areas associated with his books.

Full details and tickets can be obtained from The Thomas Hardy Society, c/o Dorchester Town Council, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1JF. Tel: 01305 251501 e.mail: info@hardysociety.org

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBER:

Captain John Pearson, Dorchester

MEMBERS:

Barry Clark, Beaminster · John Courtney, Corfe Castle
Nigel Ewens, New Milton · David Holland, Dorchester
Kenneth Lambert, Sidmouth · John Newman, Bere Regis
Simon Newman, Victoria, Australia
Gareth Pearson, Brecon · Dr Peter Tate, Dorchester
Euan Felton, Dorchester.

Total Membership:- 992.



Vice Chairman
Andrew Prowse
presenting the
Society's cheque
for the Echo
toy appeal

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER 2019



Our president and Lady Fellowes greeting guests



Our Hon. Sec. with Alastair Chisolm at the annual dinner



The cheese tasting



Our Chair and Vice Chairman and their ladies

Pictures by Trevor Matthews

CAN YOU HELP? The following letter has been received from Richard Turner, one of our life members:

I am trying to establish the purpose of the two triangular pyramids / beacons / obelisks between Durdle Door and White Nothe. Research so far has suggested that they are probably ex-naval landmarks used in connection with "Prize Firing" exercises. Having established this possibility I have come to a halt unable to verify this suggestion nor to understand exactly what "Prize Firing" involves. As I am currently in the process of reading my Dorset Year Book, cover to cover, it occurred to me that somewhere amongst my fellow members there is possibly an expert in the field.

Could I plead therefore that the question be introduced into the Society's communications, maybe the next newsletter, in the hope that the mystery can be solved and my education furthered? Maybe there might be a short article for the Year Book as a result.

*I am ever hopeful that someone will know the answer.
RT*

WANTED

Old copies of the Year Book
prior to 2012
to use in digitalisation process.

Will not be returned.
If you can help,
please email
list of years available
to:

membership@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk