



THE SOCIETY OF DORSET MEN



NEWSLETTER - SPRING - 2024

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

For a county that is small, albeit perfectly formed, Dorset punches above its weight in the national press. Recent articles have included the discovery of a huge fossil at Kimmeridge and the nomination of Weymouth beach as the best in the country. By far the most poignant, however, was the report of the return of Peter Wellman, thought to be the last living link, to Tyneham. It is an appropriate time, for June sees the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the historic event for which the villagers made their great sacrifice. It was a sacrifice that helped make D-Day possible, shortened the war and no doubt saved many lives by the intense training that the troops received there. We should never forget it or the people who lost so much.

Another anniversary this year, on 7th July, is the founding of this Society with its first meeting in London. Founders Day has been stoically remembered by our chaplain, John Travell, accompanied by a few members (without even the proverbial dog) for some years now. It is time this event achieved a higher profile and this year, on the anniversary date, a wreath-laying will be held at the graves of Sir Frederick Treves and William Watkins who lie side by side in Dorchester Cemetery on Weymouth Avenue. This will be followed by a talk on Sir Frederick and refreshments at a hall a short walk away. We look forward to your support and the intention is to make it an annual event.

The full programme of events for 2024 is included in this Newsletter. Please support them as fully as you can and meet and mingle with fellow members. Remember that a stranger is a friend you haven't met yet.

DONATIONS TO CHARITY

As part of our planned support of local charities, we donated the proceeds of the Christmas Lunch raffle, £355.00, to the Foodbank at Dorchester. We have since made donations of £100.00 each to Foodbanks at Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Kinson, Fern-down and Verwood. This is truly in line with our stated object of assisting Dorset people who 'may stand in need of the influence and help of the Society'. Christmas is an especially blessed time to help those less fortunate than ourselves and we hope those who received goods enjoyed a rather better festive season than they might have hoped.



Picture - The donation being presented to Rosemary Hardwicke, a Trustee of the Foodbank in Dorchester.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee has met three times since the SGM. A programme of events has been arranged (see back page) and arrangements for the County Dinner are enclosed.

Brian Chant has stood down from the committee owing to pressures of other business. **Roy Hardy** has assumed responsibility for the Shop, which we are hoping to restock soon. **Peter Lush** has taken on the Newsletter and Distribution.

The **Secretary**, Steve Newman, has a new address - 30 Beaulieu, Weymouth, DT4 9SQ

There are now **two vacancies** on the committee. We would benefit from having a member from Purbeck and one who was media savvy as we look to develop an online presence. If you would like to offer your services to help guide and shape the future of the Society, please contact the Secretary, address as above, or email him on steveplov@yahoo.co.uk



Members and guests enjoying the 2023 Christmas Lunch

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP currently stands at 748. A new Information Leaflet has been produced to give to prospective members at shows and events and current members may request a few copies from the Secretary to help with recruitment.

NEW MEMBERS: Christopher SLADE, Maiden Newton: Michael DODD, Portesham: Kenneth DOUGLAS, Puncknowle: Matthew BURT, Corfe Mullen: Derek BURT, Corfe Mullen: Lyndon WALL, Blandford: Michael PARKINSON, Sherborne: Ken LAMBERT, Dorchester: David JOSLIN, Dorchester.

We welcome them all and look forward to meeting them during the year.

DEATHS: John FLASHMAN, Tonbridge: Alan NEWBERRY, Portland: Richard HUGHES, Taunton: John SLOW MBE, Wimborne: Walter GUNDRY, Dorchester: John CASE, Bridport.

“To hear behind his last farewell, the geate a-vallen to.” (William Barnes)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Sir David CHECKETTS KCVO, Robert CORNICK, T H DURRANT, G FRAMPTON, R N HANNAY, A HATCHER, J R HILLMAN, K JAMES, Geoff JEANS, J ROGERS, Kenneth WILLSON.

Although we are still receiving subscriptions from these members, we have no current address for them. If any members can help with information, please contact the Membership Secretary.

LORD GRIFFITHS OF BURRY PORT

Our Guest Speaker at the County Dinner

The Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, who has been introduced to the Society by John Travell, is a Methodist minister, politician and life peer. He served as an opposition spokesman and whip in the House of Lords from 2017 to 2020, having served as the President of the Methodist Conference from 1994 to 1995. Born in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire in February, 1942, he was educated at Llanelli Grammar School before studying at Cardiff University.



Burry Port is a small coastal town which owes much of its history to the coal trade and is also the place where Amelia Earhart landed at the end of her solo flight across the Atlantic.

Leslie became a local Methodist preacher in 1963 and while training for the ministry completed an MA in Theology at Fitzwilliam, Cambridge. Spending most of the 1970s in Haiti, where he was ordained, he returned to England to serve in Caversham, Loughton and Golders Green. He completed a PhD in 1987.

Retiring from his final position as superintendent of Wesley's Chapel in London, Leslie was created Baron Griffiths of Burry Port and Pembury in the County of Dyfed in 2004.

Leslie is an entertaining and accomplished speaker and we are pleased to welcome him to our annual County Dinner.

WEBSITE

After a period of relative neglect, the Website has been brought up-to-date and can be found a useful source of information.

The full 2024 Calendar of Events is now uploaded and the details of the County Dinner and how to book are also available. These will now be updated on a regular basis.

There is a Gallery of photographs from the last five events, up to and including Christmas Lunch 2023, and by the middle of March these will be searchable and details will be included for how to order prints. Digital copies will be free.

There is much of interest on the site, not least of which is the Year Book Archive, a real window on the Society's past history.

www.societyofdorsetmen.co.uk

DORSET YEAR BOOK 2025

The Editor is actively seeking articles for the 2025 Year Book and will welcome contributions from members. Please send to:

editor@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk

PRESIDENT'S EVENING

Members are invited to join the President, Lord Fellowes, at an evening gathering at which drinks and substantial eats will be served in a marquee at Stafford House, West Stafford, Dorchester, DT2 8AA on Thursday 4th. July 2024 at 6.30 pm. If you wish to attend, please email your name(s) to:

steveplov@yahoo.co.uk



EVENTS DIARY FOR 2024

A full programme of Events has been organised for the Society in 2024.

Please watch the website for alterations and updates

County Dinner

George Albert Hotel, Warden Hill, Saturday 20th April, 2024. Speaker Lord Leslie Griffiths (see enclosed)

Hambro Cup – Golf Competition

Came Down GC, Dorchester. Friday 17th May, 2024. Contact d.upshall@googlemail.com (Pay on the day)

Visit to Minterne House

Meet 2.00 pm for House tour, 3.00 pm Cream tea, 4.00 pm Garden tour. Wednesday 22nd May, 2024.
£25.00 (20 minimum)

Walking History Tour of Wareham

Guided Tour by Hilary Goodinge (free) and Cream Tea (pay on the day). Maximum 30. Sunday 23rd. June, 2024. Meet 2.00 pm Howard's Lane Car Park BH20 4NN

President's Evening

Thursday 4th July, 2024 at 6.30 pm (see panel on page 3)

Founders Day

Dorchester Cemetery, Weymouth Avenue, Sunday 7th July at 2.00 pm followed by Refreshments and a Talk on Frederick Treves. Cost £10.00. (Pay on the day)

Please send names in advance to chairman@societyofdorsetmen.co.uk

Outing on the Waverley Paddle Steamer

Aug /Sept Waverley paddle steamer trip from Poole. More information later.

Annual General Meeting

Date in October and venue to be confirmed

Christmas Lunch

The Crown Hotel, Blandford. Sunday 1st. December, 2024. Details and menu to be announced in due course.

For booking, email to chrisgoodinge@hotmail.com

or post to 5 Barton Hill, Shaftesbury, SP7 8DQ

Pay 'Society of Dorset Men' by bank transfer to 40-46-23 A/c 21182226
(preferred) or enclose cheque.

