



THE SOCIETY OF DORSET MEN



NEWSLETTER - CHRISTMAS - 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the Society of Dorset Men's AGM on Sunday 20th October it was a huge honour to be asked to take over the presidency of the Society of Dorset Men, and somewhat daunting to be stepping into the shoes of Julian Fellowes. I must congratulate and thank Julian, and indeed that other vital team member, Lady Emma, for all they have done in heading up our ancient Society for the last thirteen years.



Angus Campbell CVO

I feel it might be a good move to briefly introduce myself. Notwithstanding the name, 'Angus Campbell', I have been brought up in Dorset. My father retired from the army shortly after the War and, as there was no work for him in Argyllshire, he settled in Dorset and started an agricultural contracting business in Shroton. The family then purchased Preston Hill Farm in the Parish of Iwerne Minster.

At the age of 20 I decided to put down my £10 and emigrate to New Zealand to work for the Auckland Herd Improvement Association for two years and, whilst there, I was lucky enough to acquire my Private Pilot's Licence.

Returning to the UK I joined the Army, via RMA Sandhurst, as a Military Helicopter Pilot and served a somewhat elongated short service commission in the Army Air Corps serving in Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Canada. On retirement I returned to farming in Dorset.

Developing an interest in local government I became Leader of North Dorset District Council, going on to become Leader of Dorset County Council and finally retiring in 2013. At that point I was extremely lucky to be asked to be The Lord-Lieutenant representing the Crown in Dorset and served for over ten and a half years in that position until reaching my mandatory retirement age of 75 in September this year. Much happened over the time of my service including Covid, the sad loss of the late Duke of Edinburgh, the Platinum Jubilee, the tremendous sadness of the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, followed by the Joy of the Coronation of King Charles the Third.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 119th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Weymouth, on Sunday 20th October, 2024. Thirty-seven members attended.

The accounts for the year to 30th September, 2024, were presented by the Treasurer and approved.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on a year of significant change which included electing a new Chairman, new Committee members and the adoption of a new membership criteria which made it possible for ladies to become members of the Society.

The Chairman also reported on the events which had taken place over the past year and he thanked the Committee who had worked hard on behalf of the Society. It was noted that the Society was now spending within its means and that, unfortunately, membership numbers were still in decline.

He also reported that the Year Book had been a great success in the capable hands of John Newth who had brought his professional skills to its production and a significant reduction of costs.

Last year's committee were re-elected *en bloc* with the addition of new members, Paul Bompas and John Beashell.



New committee members,
Paul Bompas (above) and
John Beashell



It was resolved:

1. That the Rules of the Society be amended as set out in the report.
2. That the proposal to change the name of the Society be not agreed.
3. That the proposal to adopt electronic/postal be not agreed but that the Committee investigate the matter and report back to the next AGM.

The Chairman thanked Lord Fellowes and his wife Lady Emma for all that they had done for the Society over the years and presented Lord Fellowes with four volumes of Hutchins History and Antiquities of Dorset. Mrs Lush presented Lady Emma with a bouquet of flowers.

The President thanked everyone for the gifts and spoke about how much he had enjoyed his time as President and how it had made him feel like a true Dorset man. He then proposed, and it was duly seconded, that Angus Campbell be appointed as the next President of the Society. Lord Fellowes was duly appointed as a Deputy President.

The new President addressed the meeting and thanked members for appointing him to the position.



Lord Fellowes rides off into the sunset -
to do some reading?

ENTER THE LADIES

Following the recent decision at a Special General Meeting to extend membership to everyone with a connection to Dorset, regardless of gender, the Society has enrolled its first lady member. She is Mrs Elizabeth Day, who says “I feel privileged and excited to be the first female member of this wonderful Society”. Elizabeth is the wife of member Bob Day, who joined in December, 2022.



Also enrolling is Mrs Pat Russell who joins her husband Hayne, an Honorary Life Member, who has done so much for the Society as a past Secretary.



MEMBERS ALL AT SEA

On the evening of **2nd September, 2024**, a party of forty two members, partners and friends set sail from Swanage for a trip on the **PS Waverley**. The weather was cold, but dry and the voyage afforded views of Swanage, the coastline and the Needles not usually seen. Drinks and snacks were available on board and a stiff snifter was a fine antidote to the conditions. The commentary was very welcome and informative and all present felt it was a most worthwhile and pleasant event.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The **County Dinner** will be held at the George Albert Hotel, Warden Hill, on **Saturday 10th. May, 2025**. The annual competition for the **Hambro Cup** will be held at Came Down Golf Club on **Wednesday 21st. May, 2025**, first tee time at 9.50 am. Full details and details of other events taking place in 2025 will be included in the Spring Newsletter.



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I feel incredibly honoured to have been asked to be your President and to help to carry on the fine and ancient tradition of The Society of Dorset Men. I much look forward to working with you all over future years and helping to support our splendid Society into the future.

A happy Christmas to you all!

Angus Campbell CVO

BITS AND BOBS

The 2025 **Dorset Year Book** was published in early November and is its usual eclectic mix of articles, all Dorset related, brought together by the professional and experienced hand of John Newth. This is an important asset of the Society and a way in which we can introduce ourselves to the wider population. Copies are available (from the Secretary) and make excellent Christmas presents.

Our **Webmaster** has advised us that he will no longer look after our website after this month. Jules has carried out this task for some years but is now moving on. We have made arrangements with a new webmaster and will be taking on the maintenance of the content ourselves and adding a new feature of a Members Zone, where documents such as accounts, minutes and notices will be accessible by members only by use of a code. Please watch out for information regarding these changes. The website can become a most useful tool in the organisation and management of the Society.

Those members who visited **Langham Wine Estate** last year will not be surprised that it has been named The Real Review Winery of the Year Great Britain 2024. We already knew that Dorset produces the best and there are other vineyards in the county producing top wines. What better way to enhance our Christmas fare than with a glass of locally produced fizz. Congratulations to our member, John, and all at Langham Estate.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch was held at the Crown Hotel, Blandford, on Sunday 1st. December and more than ninety members and their guests enjoyed a most convivial occasion.



Lyndon Wall provided the music and accompanied the carols, and the event was graced by our President, Angus Campbell, and his good lady, Carola.

Chris Goodinge and his little helpers organised the event in their usual efficient fashion and the President made the draw for the winner of the raffle for a hamper, which raised £252.00 to be donated to a Women's Refuge somewhere in Dorset.

Left - The President proves he's just the ticket

