

Membership

For over 60 years the Society has played an active part in Sherborne's cultural and social life. In these difficult times we suggest that it is important that we keep going whatever the difficulties. We have a confirmed programme of speakers, which is particularly interesting this year. We start with General Sir Robert Fry on Tuesday 29th September talking about the wars that resulted from the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York in 2001.

We plan to hold these talks in the Digby Hall as we usually do. There will be limitations on each event in the wake of Covid-19. We intend to follow these as they stand at the time of each talk. Sherborne Town Council as administrators of the Hall have already established guidelines concerning social distancing and toilet traffic control. There will also be limits on the total number attending. The Council will be taking responsibility for the hygiene aspects of the building. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide tea or coffee. Guest admissions and free entry for students will also have to be suspended.

These guidelines will be modified as the season progresses and as the national experience of indoor events develops. They may be relaxed or they may be made more rigorous. However, we trust that there will be a small but growing audience for regular talks on different historical subjects. We are informed that the limit is already up to 48 family or friends groups who may sit together as one 'bubble'. The humorous aspect of 48 'bubbles' delicately spaced around the Digby Hall will perhaps help to lighten the mood so that we can all enjoy a series of really good talks in a pleasant social atmosphere.

From Tuesday 1 September 2020 you will be able to renew your membership or join the Society by using our new registration & payment system. Just type <https://membership.sherbornehistoricalsociety.co.uk/login> into your web browser to register. The instructions are clear and you will receive an instant acknowledgment. If you don't receive an email from the system in your inbox within a few minutes, please check your spam/junk/promotions folder.

You can pay your subscription by card online, by following the prompts. However, you may prefer to pay either:

- by direct transfer to Sherborne Historical Society: Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-98-90, account no. 18139068. Please use your surname and initial as our reference, or
- by sending a cheque (made out to Sherborne Historical Society), with your name and contact details to the Treasurer, Sherborne Historical Society, Beridene, Crewkerne, TA18 7PT.

Once you have registered and paid your subscription, your membership card will be posted to you - saving you an SAE!

If you do not wish to make any use of the new online system, you can download the membership application form on this website and send it, together with a cheque, to the Treasurer (address above).

While Covid-19 lasts, we will be holding the talks as usual in the Digby Hall but in accordance with the guidance appropriate at the time. At the moment this involves social distancing, one-way traffic, masks for the audience and a top limit of 48 family units. The areas of hygiene and cleaning are being looked after by the Council as administrators of the Hall.

If you wish to attend a talk, you must first book a place via the Tickets button on the Members' webpage. Seats will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

For those who do not wish to come to the Hall just yet, we are offering an online audio version of each talk recorded together with accompanying illustrations. We realise this is a second best but it does offer the chance not to miss any of this year's excellent roster of speakers. An example of a talk from last year, *The Gin Craze*, is on our website at the moment, where it can be accessed by anyone. However, please note that this new service is exclusive to SHS members and will be available on the Members' webpage shortly after each talk.

We're aware that we have introduced several major changes this year, not all of our choosing. We hope that you will bear with us as the new systems bed themselves in and look forward to seeing you again shortly.

Looking forward to welcoming you to our new 2020/21 season.

Judith Hinch

Membership Secretary