

Why a Historical Society?

Shaftesbury Historical Society was founded in 1946 by a dedicated group of local people with a vision and an interest in the history of the locality. This started with a series of winter talks, and quickly expanded to include

a summer outing and informal discussion groups, which led to some members undertaking research into the town's past.



This in turn started a drive to set up a local history museum where objects could be displayed and members could meet to exchange ideas and further their studies. Just two years after the Society was formed the small collection of objects had outgrown the space provided in the Town Hall. With generous help from local people the property behind St Peter's church at the top of Gold Hill was purchased. In 2011 the Museum re-opened following a redevelopment project financed jointly by donors and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Then as now, Gold Hill Museum was staffed by volunteer helpers and open during the summer months. Members undertook research and fieldwork, adding considerably to the collections to make the museum what it is today. The collections continue to grow and develop. With an ever increasing change to the pace of life, reminders of the past play their part in our present.

Membership benefits

Monthly talks: We arrange a series of lectures during the winter months on subjects of historical interest.

The annual Teulon Porter Lecture is dedicated to the memory of a co-founder of the Society, Noel Teulon Porter, a keen archaeologist who retired to Shaftesbury from Cambridge.

Field Trips: The annual summer outing is very popular

Social Events: Several social events take place during the year including the summer Garden Party.

Gold Hill Museum: The Society owns and operates the town Museum located at the top of the world-famous Gold Hill. Admission to the Museum is free, but donations are welcomed.

History Working Group: This group meets periodically and undertakes specific research projects. It also produces information pamphlets which are sold in the Museum shop.

Library and Archive: There is an extensive library of books and an archive of material on the town's past. This is available free for members to use by appointment. So if you want to find out about some aspect of the town's past this is probably the best place to start. We can also refer people to other sources such as the Dorset History Centre and the County Museum of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society to which the Society subscribes.

Regular Newsletters keep you up to date with the activities of the Society.

Further details

Tel: 01747 852157

Email: enquiries@goldhillmuseum.org.uk

Website: www.goldhillmuseum.org.uk

Gold Hill Museum

The Historical Society actively collects items of interest relating to the history of the town and 24 surrounding villages. We are always interested to hear from people who have lived in the area or who have relatives who once lived here. Information from such contacts can enhance the records we already have.

Gold Hill Museum is a small museum located at the top of Gold Hill, Shaftesbury's most famous landmark. It was once a doss house, which provided accommodation for drovers, jugglers and traders who came to Shaftesbury's markets and fairs.

The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and its running costs are met mainly from donations. Though housed in ancient buildings, the Museum offers modern facilities including a lift and the splendid Anna McDowell Garden Room, which can seat 50 people for a lecture.

The Museum garden is one of delight as it re-creates the cottage style of English gardening. It enjoys an excellent view to the south across the Blackmore Vale.

Shaftesbury takes part in Southern Britain in Bloom competitions and our garden has won several certificates in local competitions, including 1st Prize for the garden in the Best Public Building category in 2013. Dedicated volunteers look after this wonderful plot.



I/we would like to become a member of the Historical Society

Name: _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Date _____

Membership category: Please tick

Adult member £15.00.....

Family member £25.00.....

Student member £3.00.....

Life member £75.00.....

I would like to make a donation and have completed a Donation Form. *Please tick the box if you have enclosed a donation*

I am interested in volunteering for (please tick):

Stewarding (welcoming the public/using the till)

Collection Care (cataloguing)

Website (using computer skills/creativity)

Education (workshops, costume-making)

Fund Raising

Please make your cheques payable to :

The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society

and send your cheque to:

Membership Secretary, Gold Hill Museum, Gold Hill,
Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8JW



Objectives of The

Shaftesbury & District Historical Society

The Object of the Society is to encourage the appreciation, study, and enjoyment of History, particularly that local to Shaftesbury, Dorset, and its environs, and thereby advance the education of members of the Society and the public, of all ages and backgrounds

To further this Object the Society undertakes:

- i. To own, maintain and operate Gold Hill Museum, for the display of objects of historical and antiquarian interest. To receive by way of loan, gift, purchase or otherwise, suitable objects for display; to admit members of the public at such times and on such terms as the Trustees may determine. To comply with Museum Registration Standards.
- ii. To own and maintain a library and archive of books, papers and documents of historical and local interest for the benefit of members and others engaged in research likely to be of interest to the Society.
- iii. To organise and hold lectures on historical subjects at intervals during the winter months.
- iv. To organise visits to places and events of historical interest for the benefit of members.



The Shaftesbury & District
Historical Society
Registered Charity Number 1156273

The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society

Membership



Having a lovely time. Wish you were here

Join today

and help preserve the past for the future