

# 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 for it in the Town Hall and other premises were sought. With generous help from local people the property behind St Peter's church at the top of Gold Hill was purchased and the exhibits moved. Our town museum was born.

Then as now, it 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 objects of historical interest.

**Teulon Porter Lecture:** This annual lecture is dedicated to the 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 & Garden:** The Society owns and operates the Town Museum located at the top of the world famous Gold Hill. Admission to the museum is free for our members.

**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. So if you want to find out about some aspect of the town's past this is probably the best place to start looking. We can also refer people to other sources such as the Dorset County Museum of which the Society is a member.

**Newsletter:** To keep you up to date with the activities of the Society.

**Membership Cards:** Members can use their cards to gain free entry to Gold Hill Museum & Garden and Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Garden.

# Gold Hill Museum & Garden

The Historical Society aims to extend its field of operation. We actively collect items of the town's history for adding to the museum collections and are always interested to hear from people who have lived in the town previously or who have relatives who once lived here. Information such contacts provide can extend the records we already have.

Gold Hill Museum is a small voluntary run museum located at the top of Gold Hill, our 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.

We strive to preserve what is best of the town's past while recognising that it is a vibrant town in the present. A look at the town map shows how little and yet how much has changed.

The Museum Garden is one of delight as it tries to recreate the cottage style of English gardening. It also has a splendid view out across the Blackmore Vale. Shaftesbury takes part in Southern Britain in Bloom competition and our garden has won several certificates in local competitions, including 1st Prize for the garden in the Best Public Building category 2006. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership category:** *Please tick*

Adult member £10.00.....

Family member £18.00.....

Student member £3.00.....

Life member £50.00.....

**I am interesting in volunteering and would like to know more about:** *Please tick*

Museum custodian  Cataloguing

Conservation  Exhibitions

School visits  Adult visits

Garden  Social events

History working group  Talks & field visits

Library & archives  Research

Please make your cheques payable to the *Shaftesbury & District Historical Society* and hand it with your cheque to the Gold Hill Museum or post it to:

Membership Secretary  
Gold Hill Museum & Garden  
Gold Hill  
Shaftesbury  
Dorset SP7 8JW



# Objectives of the Shaftesbury & District Historical Society

The objectives of the Society are to advance the education of the public in history and to encourage the study of history, particularly local history, by members and others and to these ends:

- i. To own, maintain and operate a museum, with the adjoining Sun & Moon cottage, and garden 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 Committee may determine. To comply with Museum Council's Registration Standards.
- ii. To own and maintain a library and archive of books, papers and the documents of historical and local interest for the benefit of members and others engaged in research likely to be of benefit to the Society.
- iii. To organize and hold lectures on historical subjects at intervals during the winter months. These may occasionally be in conjunction with other similar Societies.
- iv. To organize visits to places and events of historical interest for the benefit of members.



Registered charity number: 229883  
Registered museum no: 997

# Shaftesbury & District Historical Society

## Membership



*Having a lovely time. Wish you were here*

Join today  
and help preserving the past for the future