



THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY

www.thefirebrigadesociety.co.uk

The organisation for fire and rescue service enthusiasts

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE No 3 – FEBRUARY 2023

Issued by the Society Management Team (SMT)

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you and your families.

In the last membership update (December 2022) we asked for your opinions on two subjects and made a plea for some urgent assistance. The first question we asked concerned Fire Cover, we asked for your views regarding Fire Cover becoming an electronic online publication only if finances did not allow for a printed version. The response from members was disappointing, only 26 responded. The majority of those who responded would accept an online Fire Cover as a last resort but would prefer to keep a hard copy even if subscription rates had to rise.

Our second request concerned membership renewals; we asked if any of you had already decided not to renew to let us know so that we had a rough idea what the financial situation may be. The good news is only 2 members have confirmed that they will not be renewing.

Our plea for assistance was for volunteers to form a new Editorial team. I am delighted to announce that a new Editorial team has been appointed as from Fire Cover 239 and will consist of Andy Daley as Lead Editor, assisted by Graham Brown, Harry Copsey, David Mitchell, Steve Udall and Gavin Stewart. This is great news and we thank Andy and his team for offering to take on these important positions. All material for Fire Cover should be either emailed to fbsfirecover@gmail.com or sent to Andy at 120 Lincombe Road, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 2LS.

Please remember without members submitting articles and photographs there will not be a Fire Cover.

In October 2022 we issued an update including a Statement of Intent 2023/2024 which detailed what the SMT would like to achieve during the course of the 2023/2024 membership year. I am pleased to confirm, subject to increases in production costs remaining as indicated, enough material being submitted and postage rates not increasing to an unsustainable level we will continue with our plan of producing 3 Fire Cover's during the membership year and in **addition** we will be commissioning a special publication to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Society which will be sent free of charge to every full and Honorary Life Member with the October edition of Fire Cover.

We are only able to commit to this expenditure due to the cost saving initiatives the SMT have introduced and the significant donations we have received from members over the past 12 months. Our Treasurer Richard Thompson commented on our financial position - *The society's finances are of no cause for concern this year. The first year of the revised membership rates have meant we always planned to, at least, break even. While we have seen a slight reduction in the number of members, we have also seen a reduction in the number of editions of Fire Cover down to three per membership year. Efforts have also gone in this year to sell off all of the Sales Unit stock. This has given us a welcome one-off boost to income.*

What we could not have predicted was the amazingly high level of donations given. A number of members have been showing how much they value the FBS by giving generous donations. The individuals will remain anonymous but they have been individually thanked. Overall, this has meant that we are forecasting a significant surplus for 2022-23. The financial picture of the Society at the end of quarter 3 (31 December 2022) is included in Fire Cover 238.

If you are receiving this update by email, you will also have received an attachment containing the 2023/2024 membership renewal form. For members receiving a hard copy update, you will have received a hard copy renewal form. Please don't delay, return your renewal as soon as possible.

Please remember we have revised payment options, bank transfer, cheque, postal order or cash are the only methods of payment now accepted. For those of you who previously paid by standing order or direct debit, please ensure these are cancelled with your bank or building society.

Those members who supply an email address will receive an email confirming your renewal form has been received, for members without an email address, if you require confirmation of receipt of your renewal form, please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Please also remember that as previously advised we will not be issuing membership cards this year.

Below you will find the first draft of the 2023 What's on Diary compiled by Alan Broughton Events Manager.

All visits listed in this diary remain provisional unless © follows the location being visited which indicates the visit is confirmed.

Please note, members of the Fire Brigades Union have recently voted in favour of industrial action and this may affect some or all of the visits we are planning to hold.

Members wishing to attend any of the visits should express their interest by emailing the Events Manager at fbsevents1@gmail.com or by post to –

Alan Broughton, FBS Events Manager, 19 West End Road, Laughton, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 3GT

Members wishing to attend any Scottish visits, please contact – Andrew Fenton, Scottish Area Administrator by email at fbsscotlandA@gmail.com or by post at 48 Causewayhead Road, Stirling, FK9 5EY

Members are reminded that if they request details by post they must enclose a stamped addressed envelope for each visit they wish to attend.

APRIL	
Saturday 15 th	Scotland (Edinburgh area)
Sunday 16 th	Avon
Sunday 23 rd	Leicestershire ©
MAY	
Saturday 13 th	Cambridgeshire ©
Sunday 21 st	Surrey ©
JUNE	
Sunday 4 th	Cleveland
Sunday 11 th	East Sussex
Saturday 24 th	Scotland (Aberdeen area)
JULY	
Sunday 2 nd	Devon and Somerset
Sunday 16 th	Lincolnshire
Sunday 30 th	West Sussex
AUGUST	
Saturday 5 th	South Wales ©
Sunday 6 th	Mid and West Wales ©
Sunday 20 th	Shropshire
Sunday 27 th	Oxfordshire
SEPTEMBER	
Saturday 2 nd	Scotland (Glasgow area)
Sunday 10 th	Nottinghamshire
Saturday 23 rd	60 th Anniversary AGM Weekend – Greater Manchester
Sunday 24 th	60 th Anniversary AGM Weekend – Greater Manchester

Overseas member Serges Amores has kindly offered to organise a two-day visit to Belgium in July 2023. Before a significant amount of time is committed arranging this visit we would like to gauge interest, any member who may be interested in attending is asked to inform the Society Secretary (fbsupdates@gmail.com) or by post to the address at the top of this update by the 31 March 2023. If the visit goes ahead it is hoped to include airport and industrial brigades.

Updates to this diary will be circulated to members via email during the course of the year and will be posted on the website. Any member requiring updates by post should forward a stamped addressed envelope to the Events Manager at the address above.

We hope you have found this update useful and the SMT hope to see as many of you as possible during the year and look forward to receiving material for Fire Cover. The next membership update will be circulated as and when required, but in the meantime, if you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Colin Carter
Society Secretary