



# THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY

[www.thefirebrigesociety.co.uk](http://www.thefirebrigesociety.co.uk)

*The organisation for fire and rescue service enthusiasts*

17 Kinsbourne Way, Southampton, SO19 6HB, Tel 07925 361241

Email [colincarter100@gmail.com](mailto:colincarter100@gmail.com) or [fbsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:fbsupdates@gmail.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE No 7 – MARCH 2024**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first membership update of 2024, we encourage you to read the contents as it contains important information for the year ahead.

### **FIRE COVER**

In the last update (December 2023) we detailed the continuing rising costs of producing and distributing Fire Cover and highlighted the SMT's concern that we would be unable to continue producing Fire Cover in its current format without a significant increase in membership fees and this, we feared could make membership of the Society cost prohibitive for many members. We also highlighted that at the AGM members had set the SMT an action point to investigate digitalisation of Fire Cover and to recommend a way forward in time for the 2024 AGM.

The SMT worked hard investigating various scenarios for the continued method of producing and distributing Fire Cover in its current format but reluctantly agreed that the current method needed to change due to the reasons stated and invited members to vote on a proposal which read -

***As from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 Fire Cover will become a digital PDF version publication only. Distribution will be by email only to members, no hard copy versions will be available or distributed. Frequency of publication will increase from three editions to four editions per membership year. Current membership subscription rates will be cancelled and a standard membership rate of £15 per member will be introduced.***

It was very disappointing that for such an important vote to change the way the Society operates that only 44.7% of the membership actually voted. The results are as follows –

Number of members eligible to vote	344
Number of members who voted	154
Total % of membership that voted	44.7%
Number of members who voted by email	138
Number of members who voted by post	16
Number of members in favour of proposal	107
Number of members against proposal	47
% of membership that voted in favour of proposal	31.1%
% of membership that voted against proposal	13.6%

Therefore, as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the proposal voted upon will take effect. The SMT are very sad that we have had to propose this to the membership however with rising costs and a reducing membership, we do feel it is the right option for the Society at this time and considers that the changes being introduced do have significant benefits such as -

- No limit to the size of publication, if no material is supplied a smaller Fire Cover can be produced. If the Editorial Team are inundated with material the standard size of sixty pages can be increased without incurring additional costs.
- Four editions per membership year instead of three published in February, May, August and November
- Significantly reduced standard membership subscription fee regardless of where you live.
- Reduced workloads for the small number of members who are running the Society and producing Fire Cover.

So, what happens now?

Fire Cover 241 will be the last hard copy printed Fire Cover. For those of you who receive this update by email Fire Cover 241 and the special publication celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society will be with you in early March. For those of you receiving this correspondence in hard copy will by now have you copy of Fire Cover 241 and the special publication.

Membership renewal forms are included with this update. The most important point to remember is we need an **email address** to be able to correspond with you, there will be no hard copy Fire Cover or correspondence, everything we send you will be electronic.

The proposed reduced membership fee of £15 per person will come into effect and we will also retain the associate member category and rate (£5) for those members living in the same address as a full member, however the associate member will not receive an electronic copy of Fire Cover. Honorary Life Members will no longer be expected to pay their membership fee and revert to free membership status.

Our webmaster is currently working on a member only area for our website where Fire Cover and other member only documentation will be uploaded giving you the options to either read online, download or print. We are aiming to have this facility operating by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 however, if for any reason we encounter any delays the first edition of Fire Cover (May 2024) in electronic PDF format will be emailed to you. Instructions on how to access the member only area of the website will be circulated to all members that renew their membership for the 2024/2025 membership year.

Please be assured the SMT have not proposed this significant change without fully researching all options. Fire Cover production and distribution will be kept under review and subject to suitable material and finance being available special publications may be produced in the future.

### **FLEET LISTS**

Our recently appointed vehicle recorder, Wayne Davies has already produced a number of up-to-date fleet lists and these can be obtained by emailing Wayne at [fbvehiclerecorder@gmail.com](mailto:fbvehiclerecorder@gmail.com) and will be sent to you in PDF format. In the future up to date and historical fleet lists will be uploaded to the members area of the website. Lists that are currently available are –

Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Royal Berkshire	South Wales
Dorset and Wiltshire	Norfolk	Suffolk
Cambridgeshire	Bedfordshire	Northumberland
Hertfordshire		

Our thanks to Wayne for his efforts with this and please do keep fleet information flowing into Wayne.

### **AGM**

The 2024 annual general meeting visit will be hosted by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June. The AGM will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, location for this meeting will be confirmed in due course. The SMT are working closely with Suffolk FRS and local members to ensure we have a varied and interesting visit. Details will be available towards the end of March from the Events Manager [fbsevents1@gmail.com](mailto:fbsevents1@gmail.com) We are hoping to include visits to the USAF bases at Mildenhall, Lakenheath and Feltwell on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Negotiations with these locations has been ongoing for sometime and is proving difficult. Please be assured we are doing all we can to gain access to these bases, however it may be that the visits are approved they may still be cancelled at short notice due to circumstances beyond the control of the SMT.

### **VISITS**

Our Events Manager Alan Broughton has been busy planning a variety of visits for this year. This list below is our provisional visit calendar and at this time none of the visits are confirmed as going ahead. If you interested in attending any of the visits listed, please register your interest by emailing [fbsevents1@gmail.com](mailto:fbsevents1@gmail.com)

APRIL	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Essex
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish (Glasgow area)
MAY	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	West Midlands
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Greater Manchester
JUNE	

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Warwickshire
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Suffolk (AGM)
<b>JULY</b>	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Dorset and Wiltshire
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	North Wales
<b>AUGUST</b>	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tyne and Wear
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Merseyside
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Scottish (Dumfries and Galloway area)
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Cumbria
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Northamptonshire
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Gloucestershire
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bedfordshire
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	South Yorkshire

Although the organising for these visits is already underway, assistance from members in identifying and arranging visits to non-local authority venues in conjunction with the Events Manager is encouraged. We are also seeking members who would be prepared to be the point of contact and manage the visit on the day on behalf of the SMT. Neither the Events Manager or other members of the SMT should be expected to attend every visit.

### **SMT VACANCIES**

Our Membership Secretary Marion Carter has advised that she intends stepping down from the role as from the AGM. We are therefore seeking nominations from members to fill this important position and any member interested should contact the Society Secretary for more details.

We also have two vacancies as SMT members which were not filled at the AGM. If any member is interested in joining the SMT please contact the Society Secretary.

### **RENEWALS**

You will find the 2024/2025 membership renewal form included with this update. Please do renew promptly and if you have sadly decided not to renew this year, please let the Membership Secretary know so your details can be removed and we do not pester you with reminders. It would also be of benefit to the SMT to state why you have decided not to renew.

We have tried to make the renewal process as easy as possible so please do read the instructions carefully and can we remind you all once again, we are not issuing membership cards. Despite making this clear we are still receiving requests. Your membership number can be found on the address label of the envelope Fire Cover was delivered in, please make a note of this as you will require it to renew your membership.

Can we also remind members that the options for paying subscriptions are as follows –

- Bank transfer
- Cheque
- Postal order
- Cash

Please do not set up standing orders or direct debits as these methods of payment are not accepted.

Some overseas members have asked if they can pay for several years of membership in one transaction. This is possible, however before making payment please contact the Membership Secretary by email to discuss.

Issued by the Society Management Team.



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Email [fbsmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:fbsmemsec@gmail.com)

Dear Member,

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM 2024 / 2025

Members are invited to renew their membership of The Fire Brigade Society for the membership year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Please use this form for your own renewal and for anyone in your family who is an Associate member. If renewing for more than 2 people, photocopied forms are acceptable, or please contact me for additional copies.

If your details remain the same as last year and you are paying by **bank transfer**, this form does **not** require completing. Once payment is made, please email [fbsmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:fbsmemsec@gmail.com) confirming your **name and membership number and the date the bank transfer was completed**.

The 2024 /2025 subscription rates are:

Membership Category	£ in sterling
Ordinary	£15.00
Associate (membership number ending in A)	£ 5.00

Payment options available and banking details are as follows:

PAYMENT METHODS			
BANK TRANSFER	CHEQUE	POSTAL ORDER	CASH
Bank	LLOYDS		
Name	THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY		
Account Number	64543468		
Sort Code	30 – 99 - 50		
IBAN	GB64LOYD3099506454		
BIC	LOYDGB21287		

**When paying by bank transfer please use your name and membership number as the reference.**

Cheques must be drawn on a UK bank at no cost to the Society.

Kind regards

Marion Carter  
Membership Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL 2024 / 2025

I / We wish to renew my / our membership of The Fire Brigade Society for 2024 / 2025

Name	Membership Number	Subscription Rate (£)

Name	Membership Number	Subscription Rate (£)

Payment Method (Please tick appropriate method)	Bank Transfer	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash

Please confirm your address and contact details –

Address	
Post Code	
Home Telephone Number	
Mobile Telephone Number	
Email address	

**PLEASE ENSURE EMAIL ADDRESS IS ENTERED IN CORRECT FORMAT (i.e. case sensitive)**

We use the information that you have given us in order to provide you with membership services such as Fire Cover magazine and visits. We may share this information with any officer of the society who requires it to carry out membership services. Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the lawful basis we rely on for processing this information is: Your consent. You are able to remove your consent at any time. This will terminate your membership as we will be unable to provide membership services to you. Your information is securely stored and we will dispose of your information by 30 June (3 months) following non-renewal. For the full privacy policy, please see [www.thefirebrigadesociety.co.uk](http://www.thefirebrigadesociety.co.uk).

Please return completed forms to either –

**FBS Subs  
17 Kinsbourne Way  
Southampton  
SO19 6HB**

or via email [fbsmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:fbsmemsec@gmail.com) (scanned or jpeg accepted)

Payment Confirmed	Acknowledgement Sent	Added To Database