

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6.30pm**

***The Railway Ambulance Movement***

**Alan Sharkey**

This talk is a must for any self respecting railway buff! It will examine the role that the St John Ambulance Association had in the progress and impact of the railway ambulance movement, its competitions and looks at its medals, insignia and certificates from 1878 onwards.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00pm**

***Israel/Palestine: History is still undecided***

**Afif Safieh**

The talk will provide the historical background of the conflict in this region, where The Order still runs a Hospital in Jerusalem. It will cover the peace process, from breakthrough to breakdown. Afif Safieh has spoken in many venues, including The Vatican, and this promises to be a stimulating and informative talk.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 6.30pm**

***A Grand Master in Miniature: the Portrait Bust of Jean de la Valette in the Museum of the Order of Saint John***

**Jeremy Warren**

An authoritative account of one of the Museum's treasures, this talk will discuss the finest known portrait of this major historical figure. The bust is of great significance for all those with an interest in the history of The Order, as well as being an exceptional sculpture in its own right. It will no doubt include more than one reference to the Great Siege of 1565! Not to be missed.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 6pm**

***WALKING TOUR: "Until We Beat the Mortal Foe" - Paddington in the First World***

**David Evans**

Starting at Bayswater underground station, David's learning walks are renowned for their content and participants saying aloud or quietly to themselves "Well, I never knew that..". You will enjoy it! Highly recommended.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm**

***WALKING TOUR: The Assassination of Prime Minister Spencer Perceval***

**Lester Hillman**

Starting at Angel, and finishing near St John's Gate. This tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Continuing our outdoor summer theme Lester is a

truly entertaining guide BUT you will need to keep your wits sharp for his unique take on the topic at hand. Just look at the title!

## **SUMMER RECESS**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Summer Garden Party**

All Members of the Society are welcome to attend. Please let us know if you are attending and if you will be bringing a guest. This will be in place of the 'Annual Black Tie Dinner'. (See Newsletter November 2017)

## **THE JONATHAN RILEY-SMITH MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm**

***The Arms of the Order – the history and collections of arms and armour belonging to the Knights of St John***

**Dickon Whitewood**

The Knights of St John have a long history of ordering, using and collecting arms and armour. These objects, now held at museums such as the Palace Armoury in Valetta and Museum of the Order of St John, form one of the richest collections in the world. This talk examines the Order's use of arms and armour and the history of these wonderful collections. There will be a rare chance to see some armour first hand!

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm**

***The Life Saving Awards of the Order of St John***

**John Wilson and Roger Willoughby**

A short history of the evolution of this award, John and Roger will comment on the social context of their issuance from inception to date. Examples of major incidents and inspiring acts of great bravery, for which the Order of St. John gave these awards, will be covered in fascinating detail.

*The Society thanks all those participating speakers for their services and would encourage them where appropriate to consider having their talk published by the Society with the speaker's agreement.*

PRIOR TO ATTENDING SCHEDULED EVENTS MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CHECK THE SOCIETY'S SECTION ON THE MUSEUM WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT, CANCELLATIONS

*The St. John Historical Society  
founded in 1981  
by Dr. E. Colin Dawson*

PRESIDENT  
Keith Schnaar

CHAIR  
Paul Gwilliam

VICE-CHAIR  
Patrik Cimba

HON TREASURER  
Norman Gooding  
123, Turnpike Lane  
Croydon  
CR0 5NU

HON. SECRETARY  
Shelia Schnaar

PROGRAMME ORGANISERS  
Abigail Cornick  
Hannah Agass

# St John Historical Society

The Museum of the Order of St. John  
St. John's Gate  
St. John's Lane  
London EC1M 4DA



## PROGRAMME 2018

Meetings of the Society are held in Chapter Hall at St. John's Gate unless otherwise specified in the programme