

Bridge & District History Society - Safeguarding Policy

-This policy outlines the commitment of Bridge & District History Society to safeguarding the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. It applies to all subscribers and visitors involved in the society's activities.

-The Society principally promotes the knowledge of the history of Bridge and the surrounding area. Meetings are normally in Bridge Village Hall with occasional visits in the local area before which Risk Assessments are carried out. Those attending meetings are usually over 18 but may occasionally be other young people or vulnerable adults*. The purpose of this policy is to protect all who participate in the Society's activities.

-The Society will appoint a named individual to be a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and make that name and this policy document available to all its subscribers via the Society's website.

-The Society will provide members and trustees with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and how to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported.

-The Policy will be implemented and reviewed annually by the Committee.

-The Designated Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for handling safeguarding concerns, ensuring compliance with the policy, providing procedural guidance and arranging training if required.

-Subscribers to the Society should adhere to the policy and report any concerns to the DSO.

-Types of Abuse: Physical, mental, emotional, sexual, neglect and financial abuse.

-Reporting Concerns: Anyone about to impart information about suspected abuse must be informed in advance that it will be shared with the relevant people. Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the DSO immediately. If the DSO is unavailable, concerns should be reported to a committee member. The concern must be documented by the DSO or committee member, to include the time, date and place, the names of all concerned, any factual information about the incident and action taken.

-Further Action: Any specific allegation will be reported promptly by the DSO or trustee to all relevant authorities and the Society will support those involved in any consequent investigation(s).

-Anyone involved in a Society activity who is or becomes vulnerable and requires assistance, either physically or emotionally, will receive support or transport to a place of safety from a minimum of two members, preferably of opposite sexes.

-No photographs of under 18s may be taken on behalf of the Society, without the permission of a responsible parent or guardian.

-This policy will be reviewed every year or when there are significant changes in legislation or Society activities.

*A vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over who is deemed in need of care and support by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and is at risk of harm or abuse.

We have appointed **Jennifer Vye** as the Designated Safeguarding Officer who may be contacted by email info@bridgehistory.org.uk

This policy was approved by the Committee on **October 30th 2025**.

It will be reviewed on **September 3rd 2026**.

Signed **Alan Walton** (Chairman)