HTS Technology Refresh

The Society does not use very much technology but it is time to review what we have and make plans for the future.

Website

The current website is based on WordPress and is hosted on the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud. We need to update to the latest version of the software, and might move to a different hosting service. There is no obvious need for major change, but it might be useful to integrate some event-ticketing and membership features.

Membership Management

Our membership list has a long and confusing history! The current incarnation lives in a spreadsheet, but the e-mail list is separate and so is the accounting system. Keeping them all aligned as members come, go, and move is a major task.
Most members pay by Standing Order, but it takes deep knowledge on the part of the Treasurer to match the incoming credits to the membership list.
We would like to automate rather more of this, and give members the ability to update their own contact details online. We would also like to make it quick and easy to join HTS on the web, which leads to the question of payment methods. There are a lot of options these days so what should we try to support?
- Credit and Debit cards
- Direct Debit
- PayPal
- Apple/Google/Others?
- Standing Order
- Probably not Cheque
- Preferably not Cash

Whatever we do must comply with data protection law, and if we sign up to a managed service we must consider the costs and also how we can get our data back if we want to move to a different system.

Event management and ticketing

We have used Eventbrite for the VGP recently. That works fairly well but there may be better things out there. Many people don't carry cash these days so we need to accept electronic payment during events.

We want your input

Please tell us what is important to you and how you want to interact with HTS. If you know of products and services that might be appropriate then please tell us that too.

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