

THE BSS – BEDFORD 2026

The Annual Conference: Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 April 2026

Please note the mid-week dates.



The historic market town of Bedford is about 60 miles north of London and can be reached by train from London St Pancras in 40 minutes. John Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* while imprisoned in Bedford Gaol for preaching. The gaol no longer exists but the John Bunyan Museum is worth a visit if only because there is a sundial outside. The conference talks will be in *The Pilgrim Suite!*

The Venue, Talks and Accommodation

The venue for the 2026 Conference will be **The Mercure Bedford Centre Hotel**, 2 St Mary's Street, Bedford, MK42 0AR. This is located on the south bank of the River Great Ouse, close to the town's main bridge.

The Conference begins on Tuesday afternoon with tea and a welcome, followed by a light supper. On Wednesday morning there will be presentations. After lunch there will be a bus tour and we shall visit some of the sundials in the area. The Conference Dinner takes place in the evening. On Thursday morning there will be further presentations, finishing with the Andrew Somerville Memorial Lecture and lunch.

All delegates are encouraged to offer talks. Please send the title of your talk, time estimate and a brief synopsis to conference@sundialsoc.org.uk

The BSS will charge everyone as a Day Delegate but, this year, there will be two rates for the Conference Fee: the *Standard Rate* of £142 is for delegates who attend everything, and the *Partial Rate* of £115 is for those who attend everything except the Wednesday and Thursday morning talks.

The BSS will not arrange accommodation. We expect many delegates will want to stay in the hotel, and booking instructions are given overleaf. Delegates may also consider the Premier Inn which is a short distance away on the other side of the river.

Conference Registration and Conference Fee

A. Electronic Option

First, make a Bank transfer of £142 *per person* (£115 for those who are not attending the Wednesday and Thursday talks) to The British Sundial Society *giving your name as the reference* and noting:

Bank: Cooperative, **Account number:** 65733095, **Sort code:** 08–92–99

If you wish to make an International Payment or use PayPal, please contact the Treasurer at treasurer@sundialsoc.org.uk

Secondly, send an email:

To: conference@sundialsoc.org.uk

Subject: *Bedford 2026*

Confirm payment and give your name (or names) and mobile telephone number.

Note any dietary or access requirements and say whether you wish to give a talk.

B. Snail Mail Option

Write a letter to the Treasurer:

Graham Stapleton, 50 Woodberry Avenue, North Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 6AX

Give name(s), address and telephone number and ...

Enclose a cheque made out to The British Sundial Society for £142 for a single person or £257 for two.

Mercure Bedford Centre Hotel Room Booking

The Mercure Bedford Centre Hotel is offering a special rate of £99 per night for a single room or £109 per night for a double; both prices include breakfast. Car Parking is £7 per night.

A. Electronic Option

Send an email to Elisabet Gjinaj using this *pro forma*:

To: elisabet.gjinaj@accor.com

Subject: *The British Sundial Society Conference 14 to 16 April 2026*

Dear Elisabet,

I should like to book a single/double room for two nights, arriving 14 April and departing 16 April 2026 when I/we shall be attending the British Sundial Society Conference. I understand that you will telephone me to confirm the arrangements and will ask for my card details too. My 'phone number is ?????? ??????.

[Sign-off]

If you intend to arrive earlier or depart later or have additional requests, please add the information in the body of the email.

B. Telephone Option

Telephone booking is available. Please follow this procedure:

1. Telephone 01234 799963
2. Ask for Elisabet Gjinaj

Elisabet works Monday to Friday and is very helpful. The 'G' in her surname is silent; think Gnomon!

You *must* mention the British Sundial Society Conference and the dates 14 to 16 April 2026. You will be asked to supply your card details. You can, of course, extend the range of dates if you wish.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference