

## GLHA Local History Day 2024

The GLHA Local History Day, on the theme of 'Gloucestershire Life Stories', which was held at on July 27th at the Graze building at Hartpury University, was attended by 92 people from across the County.



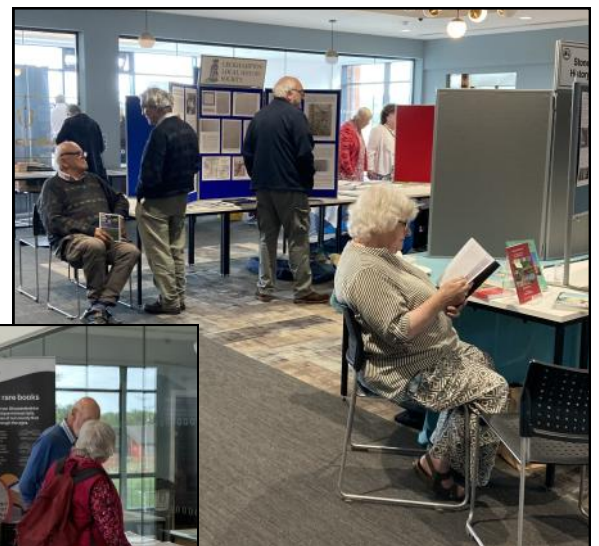
*Maureen Anderson with GLHA Chair, Sally Self*

The Day began with a talk from Amberley local historian, Maureen Anderson, entitled '**Major General Sir Fabian Ware - A truly great Gloucestershire man**'. Fabian Ware began his career as a teacher and a journalist. As well as founding the Imperial War Graves Commission, he served the County of Gloucestershire as Chairman of many committees including the Gloucestershire branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Maureen told the story of his life and the experiences that drove him to work tirelessly in the service of many national organisations. In later life he lived at Amberley, in a house close to where Maureen now lives.

One of the highlights of the Day was the opportunity to view the varied displays put together by local history societies. Fourteen GLHA member groups (Berkeley, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Gloucester Family History Society, Gotherington, Leckhampton, Nailsworth, Stonehouse, Stroud, Swindon Village and Tewkesbury) prepared displays about people from their area who had made a significant contribution to their community or to the wider world. Gloucestershire Archives and Gloucestershire County History Trust were there to promote their activities and The History Press provided a bookstall.



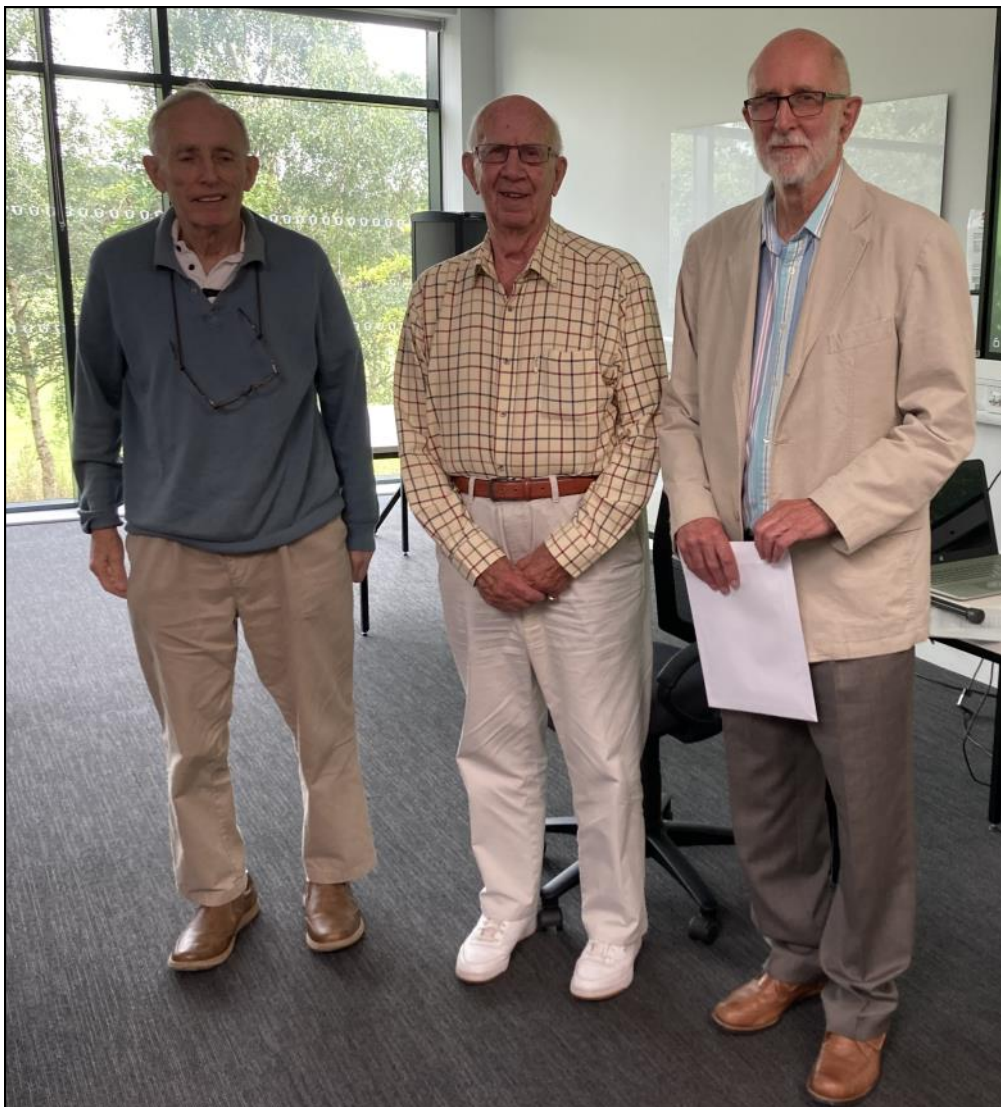
The lunch break gave attendees the opportunity to enjoy a buffet meal while networking with representatives from other local history groups. There was also the chance to visit Hartpury House, a large 19<sup>th</sup> century country house set in the grounds of the University.



The afternoon speaker was the former GLHA Chairman, Dr Steven Blake, who gave a talk on '**George Rowe (1796-1864)**', artist and lithographer, who lived in Cheltenham between 1832 and 1852 and who drew, printed and published many topographical prints of Gloucestershire and beyond. In 1852 he travelled to Australia, initially to seek his fortune in the goldfields, but who eventually become one of the most celebrated 'goldfields artists', with works in many major Australian museums and galleries. Special thanks were given to Steven, who recently stepped down from the Chairman's role, but was still instrumental in the organisation of the day.

The Day also included the announcement of the 2023 Bryan Jerrard Award, the winner of which was Richard Chidlaw, for his article, '*Dursley Clothiers and their mills 1450-1600*', in *The Dursley Lantern* **19** and the runner-up was Michael Hare, for his article, '*The survival of the 17th-century chancel fittings of St Mary's Church, Deerhurst, during the 19th and 20th centuries*', in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **140**. Bryan Jerrard was delighted to present the certificates and prizes, which were sponsored by The History Press. Thanks were given to the judges, Steven Blake, David Aldred and Mike Greet, particularly to Mike who was retiring after 15 years as a judge. The 10 local history journals that were submitted for the award were on display so that those attending could appreciate the impressive amount of research and publication undertaken by many GLHA member groups.

Thanks were also given to the helpful staff at Hartpury University, especially Lily Blueman who enabled the day to run smoothly in an excellent venue, and the GLHA committee who organised and supervised the Day.



*Bryan Jerrard (centre) pictured with runner up Michael Hare and winner Richard Chidlaw*