



**Minutes of the Members' Forum
held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 11.00.am
at the Heritage Hub**

Those present were:

Berkeley Local History Group	Margaret Orchard
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society	Steven Blake
Charlton Kings Local and Family History Society	Geoff Bridgman, Carolyn Greet, Michael Greet
Cheltenham Local History Society	Stuart Manton, David Scriven, Russ Self, Sally Self
Churchdown Local History Society	Joan Hughes
Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club	Peter Cornish, Jane Rowe
Gloucester Local History Society	Malcolm Hackman, Caroline Meller
Forest of Dean Local History Society	Mary Sullivan
Gloucestershire Archaeology	Denise Vizor
Gloucestershire Archives	John Putley
Gloucestershire County History Trust	David Aldred
Gloucestershire Family History Society	Vicky Thorpe
Gloucester Street History Group (Winchcombe)	Rob White
Maisemore Local History Society	David Jones
Minsterworth	Terry Moore-Scott
Painswick Local History Society	Carol Maxwell, Peter Jackson
Stonehouse History Group	Janet Hudson, Vicki Walker
Stroud Local History Society	Tony Macer
Swindon Village Society Local History Group	Eileen Allen
Tewkesbury Historical Society	John Dixon
Winchcombe	David Hilton, Sue Hilton

31 attendees

Apologies for absence:

Blockley Heritage Society	Roger Thornburgh
Chalford Parish Local History Group	Roger Carnt
Chipping Campden History Society	Judith Ellis
Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society	Anne Buffoni
Cranham	Jan Whitton
Forest of Dean	Sue Newton
Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology	Amber Patrick, Ray Wilson
Leckhampton	Anne Gale
Maisemore Local History Society	Ros Lane
Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group	Jane Butler, Paul Butler
Oakridge History Group	John Loosley
Stroud and District Learners Circle	John Peters
Stroud Local History Society	Howard Beard
Tidenham History Group	Liz McBride

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed people attending for the first time – David and Sue Hilton from Winchcombe.

Minutes of the Members' Forum and AGM Monday September 9th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

None not covered by the Agenda and Reports.

Chair's Report by Sally Self

Members were emailed a written report before the meeting. The Chair drew attention to the following additional points.

GLHA website

Ray Wilson was unable to attend the December Forum so it was not possible to thank him publicly for all his work for GLHA over 38 years. The committee provided a "thank you" card for attendees to sign if they wished. The card would be posted to Ray.

Vicki Walker was maintaining the overall website. Some amendments had been made. Vicki asked reps to send her any comments or suggestions about the website and its contents.

John Dixon (Tewkesbury) asked if the articles by the Bryan Jerrard award winners could be available on the website. VW replied that she would ask the authors and editors of the relevant publications if they would be willing to send copies of the articles and, if so, they would be added to the website.

Speakers List

The committee had updated the guidance concerning the GLHA Speakers List. Mary Sullivan (Forest of Dean) had taken over the role of maintaining the List and would record any feedback received about speakers on the List.

Local Societies Talks List

An email survey asking Groups whether they used the Talks List, and if they thought it should be maintained, had been circulated.

Summary of replies received

By Nov 25th 27 comments from member groups' reps and individuals had been received.

Many responders mistakenly thought the question was about the Speakers List. 12 out of 27 said they thought the Speakers List was very useful. This did indicate that in lots of those cases they did not realise the Talks List existed despite the fact that we have requested contributions twice a year.

Of those who commented on the Talks List - 7 said *keep it*, 11 said *maybe* indicating they may have used it but they had various reservations, 6 said *no* either because they never used it or it was too much work.

Example comments

Several responders said that links to member groups' websites would be useful. This is already included on Organisations but a separate list of GLHA Member Groups and their websites is now flagged up on the side bar of the Home page.

"I would certainly support it being retained and suggest it is promoted harder as being of interest to all the local society members as part of the GLHA service."

"This list looks really useful and I didn't know it existed. We could certainly use it for ideas/speakers for our own events. However, I understand how much work this type of thing can be, just by sorting out our Saturday events. I suspect the logistics are a nightmare with this many societies/speakers involved."

“CPLHG do find the Local Societies Talks List of occasional use [only]. Could live without it though.”

“We use the speakers list or personal recommendations to select speakers for our programme. I was unaware of a talks list and am unsure what purpose it serves.”

“I have contributed to Ray’s list of Local Societies talks each year, but must admit I have never used it myself as Speaker Secretary - so my answer would be NO don’t continue it as it is a lot of work.”

Overall the committee decided that:

If we had someone willing to maintain it then it might be worth doing especially if we promoted it more, and updated it more often.

Committee member David Jones (Maisemore) had volunteered to take over the maintenance of this List. It would be renamed Local Societies’ Events List to try to help distinguish it from the Speakers List.

A revised guide to submitting your events will be drawn up and sent to all groups as soon as possible. It was hoped to get an updated List online by January 2025.

Several representatives questioned the method of submitting programmes. It was explained that it would be a very time-consuming task for the editor to type out all the different Groups’ events and if it was submitted according to the required format (given on the website) then it made the task much easier – although corrections were often still needed. There were several acceptable formats given and David Jones offered to assist anyone with entries.

Bryan Jerrard Award 2024

This will be presented at the Forum on Monday September 8th 2025.

The Chair thanked the committee for their support and asked for more members to volunteer for the committee and major roles.

Treasurer’s Report by David Scriven

Members had been emailed a written report presenting the GLHA’s financial accounts for the 8 months ending November 30th 2024. As at that date the Association’s funds stood at £3,114. Income during this period amounted to £1,974. Expenditure amounted to £1,856.

The invoice for £1,386 for hire of accommodation and catering services for the GLHA Local History Day, had been received from Hartpury University and had been paid.

Membership

There were still 4 groups with membership subs still outstanding. A further reminder will be sent.

Stuart Manton (Cheltenham) asked if the BALH subscription included digital or printed copies of the magazines. DS replied that a digital subscription had been taken out costing £75 rather than £90 for printed copies.

Report from Glos County History Trust by David Aldred (Trustee)

A detailed report by Nick Kingsley (Chairman GCHT) had been sent to all. DA commented that the GCHT stall at the Family History Fair in November had generated a lot of interest. The next Newsletter would be published in January 2025.

Report from Gloucestershire Archives by John Putley (Community Heritage Officer)

Members had received a written report before the meeting. John drew attention to the main points particularly the wide range of events being organised at the Heritage Hub.

The Chair asked what had happened to the blue folder giving details of all the Hub partners, including GLHA, normally kept in the Heritage Hub reception. JP replied that he would locate it and return it to reception. SS would update the GLHA pages.

David Jones commented that booking HH events online was not easy. JP replied that the HH had to wait for Microsoft and Gloucestershire County Council to update their website facilities and were unable to speed things up.

AOB

Oral history project

Tony Macer (Stroud) said that Stroud LHS were hoping to undertake an oral history project in conjunction with The Museum in the Park. They were looking for volunteers to help record memories. They were also considering joining with other groups to get training. John Putley (Archives) said that training, which includes the loan of equipment, can be offered via trained staff at the Archives.

Margaret Orchard (Berkeley) said that Berkeley have an oral history project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. They would be happy to advise Stroud.

John Dixon (Tewkesbury) thanked the committee for providing amplification for the Chair’s report. He also made the following observation:

Beware of Politicization of Historical Research and Dissemination

As a consequence of the recent General Election campaign, we move from one political party to focus on a possible campaign to remove the portrait of an MP for Tewkesbury, Sir William Codrington, who was undoubtedly one of the most wealthy slave owners of the West Indies. The group started out calling itself the **Campaign for Racial Justice** and invited people to join it, THS included. Two committee members have attended and we managed, with the help of a Stroud Member of Jamaican origin, to change the name to **Tewkesbury Voices** with the aim to "**Retain and Explain**".

A positive result is that my colleague has written a Bulletin article [to be published in March 2025] about **Tewkesbury Voices who Opposed Slavery before Emancipation**. A negative result is that I abandoned a planned article about those who benefitted locally from Slave Owners' Compensation and a Biography of Codrington and his nephew who succeeded him as MP.

John Dixon

Short break followed by:

Songs from the Incredibelles

The Incredibelles sang a selection from their Christmas repertoire – much enjoyed by all. A collection was held for the charity The Butterfly Garden, Cheltenham. £110.39 was collected, including a contribution from GLHA in lieu of a fee.

“The Butterfly Garden is an educational, therapeutic and recreational scheme, based initially on gardening, but now offering so much more. It is a project for people of all ages dealing with disablement of any kind. It caters for those looking to escape the world, those looking to re-enter it and some, who are still just looking. Its doors are open to anyone without obligation.”

<https://www.thebutterflygarden.org/>

Followed by seasonal refreshments

Thanks to the committee and Louise Scriven who provided the refreshments.

Thanks also to Joan Hughes, Eileen Allen and Janet Hudson who organised teas and coffees.

The meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

Agreed at a meeting on.....

Signed.....(Chair)