



## GLHA Chair's Report 2024-25

GLHA is now in its fourteenth year, and as at April 30th 2025 has a membership of 56 local history groups, societies and organisations.

### Four members' Forums have been held

The 2024 AGM was held in the Dunrossil Centre at the Heritage Hub on June 17th, at which the Annual Report and Accounts were received, and approved by members. Steven Blake had previously given notice that he would not be standing for election as Chair for a further year. He was thanked for chairing the GLHA so efficiently and effectively for the past 12 years, and was presented with a gift and a card signed by representatives of member groups. Following the AGM business, Jemma Foulkes, Outreach Officer for Gloucestershire Archives, gave a talk on how Local History Societies might work with schools.

In September, following on from the talk, Jemma led a workshop at which representatives discussed the work they had been able to do with schools, and shared ideas on ways of working. We have assembled the results, and composed a Guidance document which can be accessed on the GLHA website. [GLHA Guidelines on working with schools](#)

In December we were entertained by a *bel canto* group, the Incredibelles, and members tucked in to Christmas fare provided by Louise Scriven and committee members. We thank them for their efforts.

In March Dr Simon Draper, County Editor for the Gloucestershire Victoria County History (VCH) and Assistant Editor for the VCH in Oxfordshire talked about '*Parish boundaries in the Gloucestershire landscape – some of the oddities*'. He gave examples of the reasons for the peculiarities of boundaries, dating back to land ownership in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. He used maps to illustrate the influence of landscape features, such as woods and rivers, as well as royal and church estates.

### The Bryan Jerrard Award

The Bryan Jerrard Award 2023 was awarded to Richard Chidlaw for his article, '*Dursley Clothiers 1450 - 1600*', in the Journal of the Dursley and Cam Society and the runner-up was Michael Hare for his article '*The Survival of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Chancel Fittings of St. Mary's Church, Deerhurst During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*' in the Transactions of The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 140 (2022). These are available to read on the GLHA website at <https://gloshistory.org.uk/bryan-jerrard-award/>

### Summer Afternoon Meeting

Last year's meeting was held at Coleford, courtesy of the Forest of Dean Local History Society. A report and images of the very pleasant afternoon is available on the GLHA website <https://gloshistory.org.uk/annual-summer-meeting/>. We thank the Forest of Dean Society for the organisation of the event.

### Website

During the year, Ray Wilson expressed a wish to stand down from his role as webmaster, which he so enthusiastically and efficiently fulfilled for 15 years. He was thanked by all, and a thank-you card, signed by members, was sent. The website has been taken on by Vicki Walker, with Mary Sullivan managing the Speakers List and David Jones overseeing the Member Societies' Events List. Ray continues to develop Glosdocs and he is always ready to upload contributions from members. Ray has provided a report for 2024-25.

### Officers and Committee

The Committee for 2024 - 2025 has consisted of officers Sally Self (Chair), Vicki Walker, (Secretary), and David Scriven (Treasurer), plus committee members Geoff Bridgman, Janet Hudson, David Jones and Mary Sullivan. John Putley of Gloucestershire Archives was co-opted from January 2025. Sue Brown agreed to act as External Examiner.

Thank you to all our officers and committee for their dedicated work during the year, and also to Joan Hughes and Eileen Allen who have assisted with refreshments at our meetings.

If nominated, I will stand for one further year but I have several other time-consuming tasks I need to complete, while I continue to be hampered by eyesight limiting factors. Vicki Walker and David Scriven wish to stand down as soon as replacements can be found as both have many other commitments. I strongly urge you all to consider volunteering to become committee members. You would need to attend four committee meetings a year and take part, along with others, in GLHA events. Working with us is a friendly and fulfilling experience as we get to know each other and work with Archives staff and others.

I am also seeking speakers for next year's Forums. If you know of projects, good speakers, or events that would be of interest to members please contact me via [enquiries@gloshistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gloshistory.org.uk) or personally at a meeting.

Sally Self, GLHA Chair June 2025