



Minutes of the Members' Forum
held on Monday 10th March 2025 at 2.00 pm
at the Heritage Hub

Those present were:

Birdlip History Group	Harvey Mattinson
Blockley Heritage Society	Roger Thornburgh
Chalford Parish Local History Group	Roger Carnt
Charlton Kings Local and Family History Society	Geoff Bridgman
Cheltenham Local History Society	David Scriven, Russ Self, Sally Self
Chipping Campden History Society	Judith Ellis, Mary Fielding
Churchdown Local History Society	Joan Hughes, Jane Whittaker
Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society	Anne Buffoni
Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club	Peter Cornish, Jane Rowe
Forest of Dean Local History Society	Mary Sullivan
Gloucester Local History Society	Chris Field, Jill Field
Gloucestershire Archaeology	Denise Vizor
Gloucestershire Archives	John Putley
Gloucestershire County History Trust	David Aldred, Simon Draper (speaker)
Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology	Chas Townley
Gloucester Street History Group (Winchcombe)	Rob White
Leckhampton	Becky Dine, Anne Gale, Stephen Gale
Maisemore Local History Society	David Jones
Minsterworth	Terry Moore-Scott
Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group	Paul Butler
Painswick Local History Society	Carol Maxwell, Peter Jackson
Prestbury History Society	Margaret Davies
Sherborne Brook Support Group	Roger Davies
Stonehouse History Group	Janet Hudson, Vicki Walker
Stroud and District Learners Circle	John Peters
Stroud Local History Society	Tony Macer
Swindon Village Society Local History Group	Eileen Allen
Tewkesbury Historical Society	John Dixon
Winchcombe	David Hilton, Sue Hilton

41 attendees

Apologies for absence:

Berkeley Local History Group	Margaret Orchard
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society	Steven Blake
Cheltenham Local History Society	Stuart Manton
Cranham Local history Society	Jan Whitton
Gloucestershire Family History Society	Vicky Thorpe
Gloucester Local History Society	Caroline Meller
Oakridge History Group	John Loosley
Stroud Local History Society	Howard Beard
Tidenham History Group	Liz McBride

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed people attending for the first time – Mary Fielding (Chipping Campden), Jane Whittaker (Churchdown), Chas Townley (GSIA), Becky Dine (Leckhampton), Roger Davies (Sherborne Brook)

Minutes of the Members' Forum Monday 9th December 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

- A thank you card had been posted to Ray Wilson and received with thanks.
- The Bryan Jerrard award (2023) winning and runner-up articles were now available to download from the GLHA website.

Chair's Report by Sally Self

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

Local History Day

The committee were discussing holding a LH Day in 2026. Sally asked if members thought that Hartpury University was a good venue. Members of the Forum who had attended in 2024 thought that it had been a good venue. It was suggested that if Hartpury were chosen again then a car-sharing system would be useful to enable more people to attend. Sally requested any ideas for other suitable venues and themes to be sent to her at enquiries@gloshistory.org.uk or via the secretary.

Summer Afternoon Meeting

This year's event will be hosted by Stonehouse History Group on Sunday July 6th 2025 (note change of date). Tidenham will be hosting in 2026.

Programme for 2026

Any ideas for Forum topics or speakers welcomed. Recording Oral History was proposed.

GLHA website

GLHA Member Societies Events List

David Jones (Events List Administrator) reported that the List had now been updated and was available on the website. There were now entries from 24 groups and societies. He requested that entries are submitted in the correct format, detailed on the website, to facilitate compiling the List. The intention was to update the List in January, May and September. The secretary would send out the next request for entries in April. David is prepared to make amendments from time to time if necessary. Please send any updates to events@gloshistory.org.uk

Speakers List

Mary Sullivan (Speakers List Administrator) had contacted all the speakers on the List and updated details where necessary. A good response had been received from speakers and there are now 59 speakers on the List. She intends to contact speakers twice a year for updates. Mary welcomes member groups' feedback on the speakers – please email to speakers@gloshistory.org.uk

John Peters (Stroud Learners) reported that groups had tried to haggle down the fee for a talk. Members commented that speakers' fees had risen considerably in common with other price rises.

Book Reviews

Four new reviews had been added in February. Please send details of any publications by your group to Vicki Walker webmaster@gloshistory.org.uk. We can try to find a reviewer for you, or if you would like to send a review we will consider adding it to the website.

Glosdocs

Ray Wilson (Glosdocs Administrator) had sent a report which was read out by Vicki. A large number of images and documents had been added to the Glosdocs site in the past quarter. The full report will be sent out with these minutes.

GLHA Website Statistics summary 2025

Vicki Walker (Website Administrator) reported that statistics showed that visits to the website had increased in 2025, mainly as a result of the updating of key documents such as the Speakers and Events Lists.

Visits to the site

In 2024 there was an average of 2165 unique visitors to the site per month and an average of 5328 visits per month.

In January 2025 there were 3000 unique visitors and 6149 visits to the site.

In February 2025 there were 3393 unique visitors and 15278 visits to the site

Downloads

Since October 2024 the *Speakers List* has been downloaded 792 times. The *Bryan Jerrard Award* winner article was downloaded 147 times. The *GLHA Member Societies Events List* has been downloaded 123 times. *Glosdocs* items are downloaded many times.

Page views

In terms of page views - *Guidelines for working with schools* has been viewed 1143 times to date and *GLHA member groups* 704 times.

February 2025 top page views:

Speakers List – 292

Member Societies Events List – 254

Local history organisations – 223

Archive news – 225

Local History research websites – 203

GLHA member groups – 195

Bryan Jerrard Award – 189

Treasurer's Report by David Scriven

Members had been emailed a written report presenting the GLHA's financial accounts for the 11 months ending 28th February 2025. As at that date the Association's funds stood at £3,074. Income during this period amounted to £2,047. Expenditure amounted to £1,969.

Membership

David was pleased to report that all outstanding subscriptions for 2024/25 had now been paid. Since the last Forum we had welcomed two new member groups – Birdlip and Sherborne Brook Support Group. The number of paid-up members was now 56 – the highest yet.

Twenty two subs for 2025/26 had been received with more coming in at the meeting. Membership renewal forms had been sent to all contacts on the mailing list. Please ensure that the relevant person in your Society has received the form. A renewal form can be found on the website.

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

A written report had been sent to all. The January Newsletter can be accessed at vchglos.org.uk

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. New acquisitions have been made to the Local Studies Collection and a collection of documents from the Gloucestershire Highways Department have been digitised. The heating systems have been updated to use energy more economically while meeting temperature standards for the strong rooms.

Questions:

Booking Heritage Hub events online was still causing problems. John replied that they had to wait for Microsoft and Gloucestershire County Council to update their website facilities and were unable to sort out technical issues themselves.

Judith Ellis asked for another document run to be added to the Archives schedule as members travelling from a distance were unable to arrive in time for the first run. John said he would raise it with the management. It was important to try to order documents in advance but staff would do their best to help with last minute requests.

AOB

Talk

John Dixon (Tewkesbury) alerted members to a talk he is giving on March 27th in conjunction with Tewkesbury Voices, whose aim is to retain and explain the history of issues such as slavery rather than erasing information about it. The poster for the talk – *Tewkesbury in the context of the Codrington family: Tewkesbury, the slave trade and the town's part in its abolition* - will go out with these minutes.

Society bank accounts

Joan Hughes (Churchdown) had asked which banks other groups used. Lloyd's bank had started charging community groups and they wished to avoid that. They also preferred not to bank online. Maisemore use Nat West, which does not charge. Stonehouse and GLHA use the Co-op bank which offers a community account for which they do not charge. Deposits may be made at Post Offices. Other suggestions of community-group-friendly banks welcomed.

Society membership fees and costs

David Jones (Maisemore) reported that their treasurer was proposing to raise annual subscriptions to cover rising speaker costs, and falling membership numbers. He enquired as to what charges were made by member groups. Many different answers were given. Some groups charged a high annual membership but gave free entry to talks and others did the opposite. Some groups made money by holding raffles and selling items such as Journals and calendars to subsidise costs. Joan Hughes commented that Churchdown had calculated that to put on an event cost approximately £100 and made charges accordingly. Judith Ellis suggested that GLHA could conduct a survey of the fees and costs of member societies to give an overall view of what charges they made. The Chair agreed to discuss the proposal at the next GLHA committee meeting

Short break followed by:

A talk by Dr Simon Draper - Parish boundaries in the Gloucestershire landscape – some of the oddities

Simon Draper is County Editor for the Gloucestershire Victoria County History (VCH) and Assistant Editor for the VCH in Oxfordshire. He talked about some of the more quirky parish boundaries in Gloucestershire and gave examples of the reasons for their peculiarities, dating back to land ownership in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. He used maps to illustrate how landscape features such as woods and rivers influenced the boundaries as well as royal and church estates.

Simon recommended a book on the topic – *Discovering Parish Boundaries* by Angus Winchester. There were many questions from the audience and the Chair thanked Simon for his interesting and informative talk.

The meeting closed just after 4.00 pm

Agreed at a meeting on.....

Signed.....(Chair)