

## Gloucestershire Archives report for GLHA forum, September 2025

### Staffing

- **Posts at Gloucestershire Archives: Communications Assistant and Trainee Archivist:** **Alexandra Bartley** will be our new Communications Assistant (although we'll continue to be supported by Katie Pritchard remotely until she is settled) and **Niamh Devlin** will be our next Trainee Archivist, partly funded by FOGA. Both will hopefully start together on 8th September. They will be based in the Access and Engagement Team although they will be doing a range of tasks involving collections (specifically local studies with Yvonne Carter), comms for events, arranging FOGA activities as well as Searchroom support. Both intend to train as archivists in the near future.

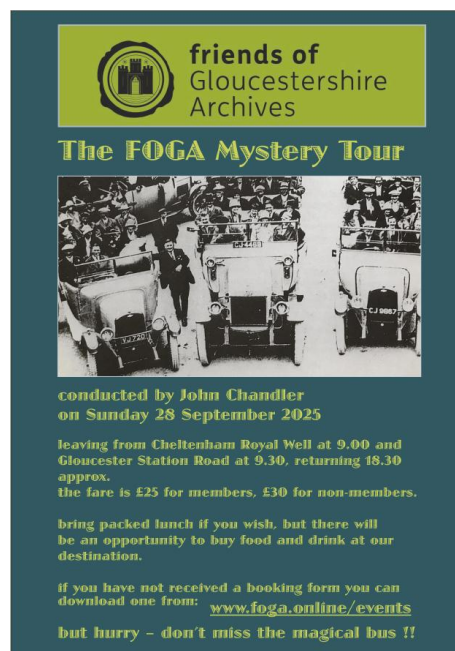
### Events & outreach

- **Secrets Revealed online talks:** last Wednesday of the month.
  - 24 September – ***“You have no authority here! – A brief history of Gloucester’s civic buildings:*** A Civic Building is essentially any building designed, used, or intended to be used by national government departments, statutory bodies representing the Crown, or local councils, either alone or in combination with other bodies, as offices or for administrative or other like purposes. They can include libraries, town halls, concert halls, public squares, and often landmarks such as crosses or bridges. This presentation looks at the buildings linked to the government and administration of the city of Gloucester.
  - 22 October – **‘Lunatics, Cripples & Incurables: discovering disability in archive collections’:** This presentation will focus on how you can search for and access information on people in the past that had disabilities.
  - 26 November – **‘Sweaty toil and sulphurous airs – Gloucestershire’s industrial past’:** Our county has a rich industrial heritage, and this presentation will look at some of the archive material relating to it.
- **Saturday events:** first Saturday of the month. Details to follow on the Gloucestershire Archives website.
  - ***Varied & Vibrant – a Year in the Life of the Mayor of Gloucester*** – 4 October, 1pm-4pm. A day focussed on civic administration of parishes, town and district councils and the County Council.
  - ***How we cared*** – 1 November, 1pm-4pm. A focus on records and attitudes to health and disability. One of the talks will be ‘Portraits of Disability: how to find real people in the records’ by Jemma Fowkes
  - ***‘Gone but not forgotten’ – industrial heritage within Gloucestershire*** – 6 December, 1pm-4pm. A look at our county’s wonderful industrial heritage.

- **Special events**

- **Gloucester Autumn History Festival:** Don't forget to check the Gloucester History Festival website <https://www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/> to see 'What's On'. Many of the talks are now being livestreamed, so if your favourite speaker has sold out you can still watch their talk.
- **Heritage Open Days - Gloucestershire Archives Green Pledge Project Friday 12 September** – Come and find out what Gloucestershire Archives' Green Pledge Project has discovered from our collections and how we learn from the past, to reflect on the present and, imagine what our future could be. Free 'behind the scenes' tours at 11.15am and 2.15pm. A display of green themed archive documents and digital recordings. The Green Pledge touring exhibition and specially commissioned artwork. Visit the Heritage Hub's nature rich community gardens. Free refreshments until 15.30.

- **Friends of Gloucestershire Archives – The FOGA Mystery Tour**



- **Cirencester History Festival** - 24 October – 2 November 2025: details of events will be announced on the festival website at <https://cirencesterhistoryfestival.org/>
- **Blog:**  
Our latest Archives' blog is *That's the way to do it!* - a look at Punch & Judy shows and the history of this wonderful entertainment! It's available at: <https://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com/>

## Conservation Management

- The big (and very exciting news) is the new environmental management system going into Moons. All of the pods in Moons (except for Strongroom 12 which has its own system to maintain its cooler temperature) will be able to receive pre-dried air, effectively maintained the correct humidity levels. It is the same system that we have in the new strongrooms, which is working very well.
- As well as being better for storage, it means that we will no longer have to keep stand-alone dehumidifiers running in the strongrooms – reducing cost, fire-risk and staff time (we won't have to empty them).
- Elemental Solutions (who created the Passivhaus design for Herefordshire Archives and Records Centre) helped us to retrofit this system, which will give us better environmental control at lower cost and with less staff time. We are highly delighted!

## Project News

- **Gloucestershire Mariners Project** - resources to help research the history of Gloucestershire mariners will be added to the online website in September <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/learning-for-all/online-exhibitions/gloucestershire-mariners/> and there will be a free to attend exhibition on the project at Blackfriars (Scriptorium/Buttery) during the history festival. Further events are being planned for the bicentenary of Gloucester docks. Tony Conder will be giving a talk on the subject at the Civic Trust's Ed Shed on Saturday 13 September 15:00 - 16:00 – tickets available from <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/gloucestercivictrustlimited/1790276>
- **Green Pledge Project:** This project is coming to an end this autumn. By then there will be EV charging on site, the carpark will have had some 'greening' and a rainwater collection system to flush our on-site loos being installed. A final celebratory event will be held on Saturday 20th September

## Other News

- **GA & GHH Event online booking system**  
Unfortunately this has had a few hiccups again – but seems to be working at the moment. Our IT people say they are investigating but as far as we know, they can't seem to pin down the precise cause. It is as frustrating for us as it is for you!
- **Christmas opening hours**  
It may be a long way off, but we all know it'll suddenly be upon us and so this is advance warning that the archives Christmas closing will be from 4.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December. We will open for the usual volunteer groups on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan and re-open to the public on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.