



Chair's Report to GLHA Forum, 8th Sept 2025

Forum 16th June

Our second of four Forums was held on 16th June. **Karen Davidson** gave a presentation on ***Adventures in Archives: explorations and challenges in the archives at Gloucestershire and Berkeley Castle.***

Karen outlined her career in Archives and Records management. She showed examples of some of the interesting artefacts and people that she has encountered over her 25 year career. In addition to her local work, she also assisted at Cologne Archives after their six-storey building collapsed on 3rd March 2009. Archives staff succeeded in rescuing and repairing around 90% of the archival records buried by the collapse.

Future Forums

2025

Monday 8th September at 2.00 pm

John Chandler - *From village carrier to National Express: the local history of Gloucestershire public transport.* This meeting will also include the presentation of the Bryan Jerrard Award for what the judges believe to be the best published article on an aspect of Gloucestershire's history during the past year.

Monday 8th December at 11.00 am

Running a Local History Society

Members have expressed an interest in the various ways that different societies and groups are managed, including the average costs. A questionnaire about this has been sent to all member groups. We would be grateful if this could be completed as soon as you can with a deadline of Friday 31st October so that we can collate results and produce a report for discussion at the December Forum meeting.

NB this is a morning meeting - Christmas refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

2026

March 9th at 2.00 pm

We are planning an Oral history workshop.

June 15th at 2.00 pm

AGM plus speaker or discussion topic

September 14th at 2.00 pm

Agenda to be arranged

December 7th at 11.00

Agenda to be arranged

Local History Day 2026

The committee is in the process of planning a LH Day, provisionally to be held on Saturday 25th July. Update at the Forum meeting.

Summer Afternoon at Stonehouse

The Association's Summer Afternoon Meeting was held at The Community Centre in Stonehouse on Sunday, 6th July, and was organised by Stonehouse History Group.

Around 60 people attended and were able to view a series of displays including the history of St Cyr's Church, local industries and historic houses around the town. A choice of 4 walks or a talk was offered and a delicious tea much enjoyed by all.

The 2026 Summer Afternoon will be hosted by Tidenham Local History Society:
<https://tidenhamhistory.co.uk/>

Finance and accounting

At the June Forum and AGM the following amendment to the Constitution was agreed.

Item 13 (i) The funds of the Association, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Committee in the name of the Association at such bank as the Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account or payments made via an online banking service must be signed or authorised by at least two members of the Committee who are authorised signatories.

The amendment has now been made and the revised constitution emailed to all. A copy signed by the Chair and Secretary is available.

Website

Work has continued on the Association's website. Mary Sullivan has updated The Speakers List and David Jones has updated the GLHA Member Societies Events List. The next date for submitting details of your programme will be in December 2025.

Glosdocs

Ray Wilson is regularly adding items to the site. Your group may wish to add some of your own documents or images – visit the website to find out more <https://glosdocs.org.uk/>.

GLHA Committee

We are pleased to report that Peter Jackson (Painswick Local History Society) has agreed to become a committee member. We are hoping that he will “shadow” the role of Treasurer in order to take over that role in due course. Peter has been a loyal supporter and attendee of the Forums and has considerable experience of managing accounts.

Unfortunately, as reported at the last Forum, the present officers and committee have reached the point of standing down from their positions. This has no reflection on the work of GLHA, as I am sure that all our volunteers have really enjoyed the work of setting up the Association and helping to run it for the past 10 to 13 years. We have appealed in the past for new members and thank those people who have come forward.

The following people will be standing down at the AGM in June 2026.

Sally Self - Chair

Vicki Walker - Secretary

David Scriven - Treasurer

Committee members - Janet Hudson and Mary Sullivan

David Jones (Maisemore), John Putley (Glos Archives) and Peter Jackson (Painswick) are willing to continue.

So yet again I am making an appeal for others to come forward. As I stated last time, we represent 56 Gloucestershire Local History Groups. The role involves attending four committee meetings and helping to arrange four Forums per year. While I do appreciate the pressures that we all have to face these days, having an interest and being committed to your community – in this case Gloucestershire local historians – is very rewarding. Please do consider joining us. In the first place attend a committee meeting as an observer and sample what we do. The biscuits are always interesting!

Sally Self, Chair, Sept 2025