

Gloucestershire Archives report for GLHA forum, December 2025

Staffing

- **Gloucestershire Archives Communications Assistant and Trainee Archivist**
Alexandra Bartley (Communications Assistant) and **Niamh Devlin** (Trainee Archivist), have both now started in their respective posts and hopefully you'll have seen them either on reception or on document control in the Searchroom.

Events & outreach

- **Secrets Revealed online talks** - last Wednesday in the month
 - 26 November – ***Sweaty toil and sulphurous airs – Gloucestershire's industrial past!*** This online talk looks at the wonderful industrial history of our county (it does not include farming, transport or aviation – the latter will be the subject of next November's Secrets Revealed).
 - 28 January 2026 – ***Tarts, Tramps & Toms – the talk of negotiable affection!*** As a prequel to the month of love, we'll be looking at the 'oldest profession' in the county.
- **Saturday events** – first Saturday of the month
 - ***Gone but not forgotten*** – 6 December, 1pm-4pm: This event will focus on Gloucestershire's industrial history and it will be a busy day with talks (on Stroud area railways and the GRCWC's Wagon showrooms), stands from the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, Stroudwater Textile Trust, Stanway Watermill and a display of working stationary engines from the Mid-Glos Engine Preservation Society!
 - ***Love, laughter and Ever After*** – 7 February 2026, 1pm-4pm: Love is in the air for this month with a talk *Whores, Toffers & Threepenny uprights* by Angela Dunsby and document displays.

Please note that there is no Secrets Revealed talk in December and no Saturday event in January, as we've given ourselves time off for good behaviour over Christmas!

- **Other events**
 - **Gloucestershire Archives - Record Keeping Service of the Year**
We're having a celebration for winning the ***Record Keeping Service of the Year*** on 17th December from 2-4pm. There will be an ARA representative to present the award on-site and some senior management from Shire Hall to bathe in the glory, plus tea & refreshments (3pm), the cutting a celebratory cake, a round-up film of GA activity throughout the year and behind the scenes tours. If you'd like to come along and join the party, please book via our the Heritage Hub website at <https://www.heritagehub.org.uk/events/celebration-record-keeping-service-of-the-year/>.

Saturday events in 2026 - Save the Date!

January
Happy New Year!



No event but check out the Secrets Revealed online talk on the fourth Wednesday of every month starting on 28 January 2026 at 1pm.

7th February

Love

Love, Laughter and Ever After...

7th March

Wildlife

Hide and seek!

4th April

Institutions

'Incarcerated' – a focus on our three main Institutions - the gaol, workhouse and asylum.

2nd May

Music

Make a note!

9th May

Centenary event

Strike! The General Strike of 1926

6th June

Sport

They think it's all over...

4th July

Heritage crafts

A focus on heritage crafts and careers with Voices Gloucester.

1st August

Cinema

Lights, camera, action!

5th September

Rivers

Go with the flow...a focus on our local rivers.

3rd October

Breweries

Cheers! Good Health!

7th November

Family History

Family History Fair with GFHS.

5th December

Aviation

Up in the clouds...

- The **Secrets Revealed Wednesday online talks** will follow the same themes but take place a week or fortnight before the Saturday events, i.e. the Secrets Revealed talk linked to February's 'Love, laughter and Ever After' event is on the 4th Wednesday in January (28 Jan).
- **Blog:**
Our latest blog is here <https://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com/>. Since the last GHLA forum there have been three new blogs: [Accessions Blog July to September 2025](#), the [Archives and Records Association Conference 2025](#) and [Upon the Rolling Deep](#), a look at the RNLI lifeboat funded by Gloucester.

Collections

These are some of the most recent accessions taken in at the archives:

Archives accessions: We have had some great additions to our collections in the last 3 months.

- Along with the usual tranche of parish and parish council records, we've had some large additions to our diocesan collection too.
- In terms of completely new accessions, we have had three fascinating deposits relating to a lady from Woodchester called Enid Airy. In the post war era, Enid was instrumental in regenerating small towns around Stroud, including Woodchester and Nailsworth, through the Period Cottage Improvement Society (D11978). She also campaigned relentlessly for the preservation and maintenance of the Stroudwater Navigation (D17200). Ultimately her efforts failed, but she would surely be over the moon with the latest news about the restoration of the missing mile!
- If you are interested in long distance running, we now hold the archive for Martin John Daykin, world renowned ultra marathon runner (D17182).
- We have had additional accessions to the Frank Watkins, poet, collection (D16602) and for S J Moreland and Son, Match Manufacturers (D16780). Our photographic collections also increased significantly, with the following deposits: Rodborough Court photo album (D17234); Owen Downing photo album (D17235); Boodle rural life photos (D17230); Stewart Blencowe's railway photographs (D17070); Oakley Hall School (D17249).

Local studies accessions: Here is a brief list of some of the new accessions in Local studies

- **New books:**
 - LS61974: Ebley Chapel Roll of Honour World War I (B744/61974GS)
 - LS61971: Herbert Howells, a study by Christopher Palmer (B744/61971GS)
 - LS61932: Believing in Gloucester (B744/61932GS)
 - LS61927: Hill Story Part V, Phil and May at Glynrosa 1910-1919 (B788/61927GS)
 - LS61928: Hill Story Part VII, 1919-1931 (B788/61928GS)
 - LS61929: Hill Story Part VIII, IX and X 1939-1949 (B788/61929GS)

Note: the above three books are missing parts of a series of publications by Mary Paget, nee Hill, formerly Assistant Archivist at Gloucestershire Records Office.

- LS61926: Rare Plant Register for East Gloucestershire (VC33) (B744/61926GS)
- LS61911: Diaries of Sir George Dowty (B744/61911GS)
- LS61909: How 'godly' was Gloucester? Delineating religious belief in print and local government in Seventeenth Century Gloucester (B788/61909GS)
- LS61906: 100 Gloucester Characters (B744/61906GS)
- LS61905: Samuel Hitch and the Gloucestershire General Lunatic Asylum (B744/61905GS). Samuel Hitch appears to have been quite a progressive psychiatrist in his early career, but in later life and when working at Gloucestershire General Lunatic Asylum it became very quiet around him. This book focuses on those "quieter" years as well as on the asylum.

- **Newspapers:** The transfer of the Citizen and the Western Daily Press from Gloucester Library has been completed (10 years' worth of holdings), and up to April 2024 has been added to the catalogue. The remaining ones (May 2024 – September 2025) will be catalogued in the next 4 weeks, all being well).

Project News

Green Pledge Project: This project has now finished and has been very well received with it being used as a 'best practice' case study by the Heritage Lottery Fund. On site we now have EV chargers on site, the rear carpark is undergoing some 'greening' and plans are in place for a rainwater harvesting system to flush our loos. This infographic shows the effect it had and more can be found at: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/our-projects/the-green-pledge-project/>



Other News

Cheltenham Local Studies: The unique and irreplaceable material is going to be moved to Gloucestershire Archives, but a strong local studies centre will remain at Cheltenham. We hope to enhance the library stock that is available for loan in the New Year.