

Report to GLHA from GCHT Monday 8 December 2025

The trustees met on 13 October and the emphasis is now on the completion and publication of the Cirencester volume, hopefully by the end of next year. The accounts of the various parishes have been written and are being edited. Progress is being made on selecting illustrations and drawing maps and plans. Our county editor, Simon Draper who works for Oxfordshire VCH, has had his time on loan to us increased to a full day each week, rather than half a day, to ensure this progress is maintained. One of the consequences of the situation with the Cirencester volume is that Alex Craven has been able to restart his research into Charlton Kings for the Cheltenham volume.

Lydia Fisher and Abigail Lloyd, our two most recent contracted historians, are working full time on the remaining parishes for the South Gloucestershire volume. Looking ahead, volunteers working at the Archives, have transcribed over 400 wills and inventories for the proposed Winchcombe volume. The Trust is awaiting the gift of a legacy which will enable a contract to be issued for research into one of the parishes covered by that volume.

The Cirencester History Festival organised a VCH themed event at the Royal Agricultural University on 28 October. Over 300 people attended to listen to Neil Holbrook (Director of Cotswold Archaeology), who has written the prehistoric part of the Cirencester volume talk about Roman Corinium and what happened to it after the withdrawal of the Roman legions from Britain in 410 AD. Simon Draper took up the story and described the emergence of the medieval town. This raised the profile of the VCH in the area.

More drafts have been added to the website for comments. The Trust continues to value the huge contribution that volunteers make in many different ways. Thank you.

David Aldred for the trustees.