



How GLHA Member Groups are run

A report on the results of the questionnaire
sent out to groups in September 2025

For ease of comparison responses divided into
size of Group by number of members



Large Groups



- Of 27 larger groups with 50+ members 14 are charities
- Annual subscriptions range from £5 to £25 pa. One group is trialling no subs this year. But average is about £12/£20 couple
- Most include attending 7, 8 or 9 meetings for free and charge non-members, but a few charge members too, usually less
- Refreshments sometimes included, sometimes charged
- All produce some kind of publications: newsletters, journals, books
- Other activities include summer walks and outings, running a library, an afternoon event open to all, or a village annual show



Large Groups 2



- Most mention paying for insurance, often from BALH
- All have a website
- Additional income can be generated from special events, raffles, grants, in a few cases, investment income
- Charities can claim Gift aid from HMRC
- Costs for speakers vary from £50 to £80
- Costs for venues vary even more from zero (if part of wider community) to £50+

Smaller groups



- 6 groups with less than 50 members replied
- 3 operate similarly to large groups
- Equally active holding up to 10 meetings most with speakers
- Speaker costs average little lower, £40
- Activities include book sales, exhibitions, walks and talks
- Other 3 groups different – one meets in members' homes, one in Archives – is part of large umbrella organisation, other holds 10 meetings but does not have outside speakers



Interesting ideas



- Arranging a public lecture annually or participating in a big annual festival
- Sitting tenant who can rent out own venue to other groups/ community events
- Renting a room for archives storage and digitizing
- Contributing to community projects eg. Tree planting, information boards around the area
- Extensive use of Facebook and YouTube
- Recording of meetings
- Displaying regular information on group in local shop window



Finances and other issues



- Balancing meeting costs, value for members, and raising money – every group has own way
- Differing benefits from subs for members eg. free or paid for journal
- Some have problems finding sufficient active members to fill committee, edit journals or books – paying for services is an option
- Many groups have achieved grants to develop websites



For discussion



- What forms of extra income do you have?
- Have you considered selling your publications as electronic versions
- Paying for services
- How do you attract new members?
- How do you publicise your events?
- How do you decide on your programme for the year?
- Does your group work with other community organisations? If so, on what?