

# Gloucestershire Archives report for GLHA forum, March 2026

## 1. **Local Government Review**

We'd welcome anyone wanting to contribute to the Government's consultation on the local government review in Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire should be told of the decision on whether the county will be one or two councils in summer 2026 with the new authority starting in April 2028. The consultation paper is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-gloucestershire>

## 2. **Cheltenham Local Studies Collection**

This has now moved from Cheltenham Library to Gloucestershire Archives and work is afoot to start making it available to customers.

## 3. **New staff member – Liz Hughes**

New staff member Liz Hughes will be working here full time for a couple of months to help Yvonne Carter with the Cheltenham local studies material. She will most likely be spending much of her time in Moons unboxing and storing items into their assigned bays.

## 4. **Customer lift & Broken foyer windows**

The customer lift has now been repaired and is fully functional again. Regarding the broken foyer windows, it has been confirmed that these were due to a bad batch of glass as it has happened to several other windows in other places. Unfortunately, we do not know if any of the other windows in the foyer are made from the same batch – fingers crossed they are not.

## 5. **Latest Accessions**

### **Latest Archive 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 additions to our schools collections too, St Helen's, C of E, Alveston (S178), Westwood's Grammar School, Northleach (S231/2) and Christchurch C of E, Chalford (S73/1).

In terms of completely new accessions, we have had records deposited by Glevum Model Aircraft Club (D16718), Winterbourne Flower Arrangement Society (D17266) and the papers of John Marjoram of Stroud, the country's first Green Councillor (D17394).

Our photographic collections have also been added to too, via accessions detailing football clubs in Gloucester (D17390), Gloucestershire Girl's Life Brigade (D17391) and the Winter Gardens, Cheltenham (D17342).

**New LS books accessions include:**

- ***League of Nations in Cheltenham, 1920-45*, by Adrian Courtenay:** this is a PhD thesis submitted to the University of Birmingham and dated July 2025.
- ***Everyone's gone to the Moon*, by Richard Goddard et. Al, 2025:** this contains memories of the Blue Moon Club and the 1960's music scene in Cheltenham.
- ***Histories from the Cotswold Edge*, by David Aldred, 2025:** this is a collection of articles written on the history of different places in the Cotswolds.
- ***Highways, Byways and Turnpikes around Stroud*, by Marion Hearfield (ed.), 2019:** a publication as a result of research into the old roads, paths and tracks that existed before the 1750s in and round the Stroud Valleys.
- ***Badbrook, Merrywalks and Slad Road*, by Elizabeth Wright, 2019:** this book is a history of Badbrook, Merrywalks and Slad Road, from 1750 - 1980 and beyond.
- ***Whiteshill and Ruscombe, a history of two villages*, by Keith Davitte, 2023:** Based on village stories and newspaper articles, this is a history of the two villages as they expanded in the 19th century to become thriving communities in one parish.
- ***Stratford Park and its Mansion House*, by Marion Hearfield, 2018:** a history of Stratford Park and its Mansion House.
- ***Story of Stroud, a concise history of the past 800 years*, by Philip Walmsley and Marion Hearfield (eds.), 2024.**
- ***Ebley, Stroud - Cider Factories, Inns, Laundries, and Orphanage and an Anglo-French Ladies' College*, by Pauline Stevens, 2025:** a book containing stories about different businesses in Ebley village, and about the families who ran those businesses.
- ***Old Stroud Brewery*, by Marion Hearfield, 2016:** this is a short history of the old Stroud Brewery.
- ***Great Western Railway in the Stroud Valley, Vol. 2*, by Mike Fenton, 2025:** this contains the history of the railway line from 1873 until the 1910s.
- ***Beard Miniatures and their Circle*, by Kerstin Paul (2024):** Family history of the Beard Family of Beards Mill in Leonard Stanley, and a description of a number of miniature pictures of Beard family members and friends (the Skipp family, the Merrick family, the Holbrow family of Leonard Stanley).
- ***Springs of Hope*, by Diana Witts (2005):** Autobiography of Diana Witts, member of the Witts family of Upper Slaughter.
- ***Churches of Gloucestershire*, by Nicola Coldstream (2024):** explores a selection of architecturally interesting churches in the whole county.
- ***The Civil Wars in 100 objects*, by Andrew Hopper (ed.) (2025):** tells the history of the British Civil Wars through 100 objects, includes "Gloucester's Coat of Arms, 1652".
- ***Rails in the Forest, The Severn & Wye Joint Railway from Berkeley Road to Norchard since 1945*, (Revised edition, 2024):** an illustrated description of the route.

**Two Quaker family history related books:**

- ***He is our cousin, Cousin*, by Antony Barlow (2015).**
- ***Memorials of Samuel Bowly*, compiled by the daughter Maria Taylor (1884).**

There have also been numerous pamphlets, and Yvonne and Liz Hughes have started working their way through the massive LS collection which was transferred to us from Cheltenham Library. The above are on the system already, but need their records updated.

## 6. Blog:

Our latest Archives' blog is all about the Severn Trent Catalogue, which is now available to search and request on our public catalogue under the collection reference D2826. The history of this collection is complicated, and many collections and deposits have been brought together in this collection in the hope of making a complicated topic a little more accessible. Responsibility for water supply has changed hands several times over the 250 years this collection covers, from the early days of Gloucester Corporation, Cheltenham Water Company, and several others, through Northwest Gloucestershire Water Board, and into the hands of Severn Trent who we know today. The scope of responsibility has changed too, so this collection also covers land drainage and sewerage, as well as the provision of clean water. It's available at:

<https://gloucestershirearchives.wordpress.com/>

## 7. Events coming up

The next **Secrets Revealed** events are listed below.

Date	Theme	Title
25 March	Special	<i>I didn't know you had that!</i>
22 April	Music	<i>Working title - Play that funky music</i>
27 May	Sport	<i>All shaped balls...</i>

The next Saturday events are as follows. Please remember that there is no event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April as it is in the middle of the Easter weekend.

Date	Theme	Title
4th April	<b>No event</b>	<b>Easter Bank Holiday. Service Closed</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Music	<i>Make a note!</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Sport	<i>They think it's all over....</i>

## 8. Soil and Soup Saturdays

Want to spend some time in nature? Come along to the Heritage Hub Community Garden for Soil and Soup Saturdays! Every third Saturday of the month, **Project Grow** is delivering a warm, welcoming series where we learn simple growing skills, meet new neighbours, and enjoy a hearty bowl of soup together to celebrate our efforts.

The next get-together will be on **Saturday 21st March** from **10:00-13:30**. Please come and join this free session, tell a friend, learn some skills, share time in nature and drink tea.