



GLHA Chair's Report 2025-26

GLHA is now in its fifteenth year, and as at 31st March 2026, has a membership of 54 local history groups, societies and organisations.

This has been a busy year for the Committee. We have made strenuous efforts to maintain the existence of the Association by engaging with member groups and with Gloucestershire Archives. We hope that many of the resources we have provided in the past will continue and that Events and Speakers lists will be updated and maintained.

Four members' Forums have been held

16th June

The 2025 AGM was held in the Dunrossil Centre at the Heritage Hub at which the Annual Report and Accounts were received, and approved by members. Member groups agreed to a change in the constitution to include the use of the online banking service which the Treasurer now uses. Following the AGM business, Karen Davidson gave a talk about her career in Archives and Records management - *Adventures in Archives: explorations and challenges in the archives at Gloucestershire and Berkeley Castle*.

8th September

The Bryan Jerrard Award

Judges Steven Blake and John Chandler presented the Bryan Jerrard Awards 2024.

The winner of the 2024 Award was Steven Carter for 'Coleford's Jovial Foresters', *The New Regard* 39 (2024) and the runner-up was Terry Moore-Scott for 'The Manor, Hamlet and Tithing of Broadwell in Leckhampton', *Leckhampton Local History Society Research Bulletin* 6 (2024)

The winning articles can be accessed on the GLHA website. Thanks to the authors and their societies for permission to publish them. They have been downloaded from the website over 200 times each during the past year.

John Chandler then presented his talk - *From village carrier to National Express: the local history of Gloucestershire public transport*. John's enthusiasm for the topic shone through and encouraged us all to consider researching this aspect of our own town's history.

Questionnaire

It was decided to produce a questionnaire for member groups concerning the various ways that different societies and groups are managed, including the average costs. The results would be discussed at the December Forum.

8th December

Running a Local History Group

Mary Sullivan presented the results of the questionnaire and group representatives participated in a discussion of their ways of working and what had been successful for them. Ideas were collated and produced in a report available on the GLHA website.

The meeting was followed by Christmas refreshments provided by committee members and volunteers.

10th March

Dr Simon Draper, County Editor for the Gloucestershire Victoria County History (VCH) and Assistant Editor for the VCH in Oxfordshire talked about '*Parish boundaries in the Gloucestershire landscape – some of the oddities*'. He gave examples of the reasons for the peculiarities of boundaries, dating back to land ownership in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods. He used maps to illustrate the influence of landscape features, such as woods and rivers, as well as royal and church estates.

Summer Afternoon Meeting

Last year's meeting was held at Stonehouse, courtesy of Stonehouse History Group. A report and images of the very pleasant afternoon is available on the GLHA website <https://gloshistory.org.uk/annual-summer-meeting/>. We thank Stonehouse for the organisation of the event. This year's event is to be held at Tidenham on June 20th.

Website

Following the retirement of Ray Wilson, the management of the GLHA website was taken on by Vicki Walker, with Mary Sullivan managing the Speakers List and David Jones overseeing the Member Societies' Events List. I am glad to report that Peter Jackson has agreed to take over the management of the website and the updating of the Speakers List. David Jones will continue to update the Events List. Janet Hudson has agreed to continue answering the enquiries received via the website.

Glosdocs

Ray continues to develop Glosdocs and he is always ready to upload contributions from members. If you would like to contribute or to discover the many resources already uploaded, visit <https://gloshistory.org.uk/glosdocs/>

Bryan Jerrard Award

The 2025 Award will be presented at the AGM. Thanks to the judges – Steven Blake, John Chandler and David Aldred for their continuing work on this.

Officers and Committee

The Committee for 2025 - 2026 has consisted of officers Sally Self (Chair), Vicki Walker, (Secretary), and David Scriven (Treasurer), plus committee members Janet Hudson, Peter Jackson, David Jones, John Putley and Mary Sullivan. Sue Brown agreed to act as External Examiner.

Thank you to all our officers and committee for their dedicated work during the year, and also to Joan Hughes and Eileen Allen who have assisted with refreshments at our meetings.

As you know, Janet Hudson, Mary Sullivan, Vicki Walker and I wish to stand down from our roles. Vicki has been Secretary since 2012. Mary has been a committee member since 2012 and taken on responsibilities including assisting with the organisation of Local History Days and more recently updating the Speakers List. Janet has been a dedicated member since 2013, taking responsibility for answering enquiries which come in via email. I have been a committee member since 2019 and taken on the role of Chair for the past two years. I would like to thank all the retiring members without whom GLHA would not have functioned so successfully. We are sorry to see them go and wish them all the best in future projects.

We hope that the remaining committee members and new volunteers can continue the good work of the Association for many years to come.

Sally Self, GLHA Chair June 2026