



**Gloucestershire
Local History Association**

www.gloshistory.org.uk



**Minutes of the Members' Forum and Annual General meeting
held on Monday June 17th 2024 at 2.00 p.m.
at the Heritage Hub**

Those present were:

Chairman	Steven Blake
Blockley Heritage Society	Roger Thornburgh
Birdlip History Group	Harvey Mattinson
Chalford Parish Local History Group	Roger Carnt
Charlton Kings Local and Family History Society	Geoff Bridgman, Mike Greet
Cheltenham Local History Society	Stuart Manton, David Scriven, Russ Self, Sally Self
Chipping Campden History Society	Judith Ellis
Churchdown Local History Society	Joan Hughes
Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club	Peter Cornish, Jane Rowe
Cranham Local History Society	Jan Whitton
Forest of Dean Local History Society	Sue Newton, Mary Sullivan
Gloucester Local History Society	Malcolm Hackman
Gloucestershire Archaeology	Denise Vizer
Gloucestershire Archives	Jemma Fowkes (speaker)
Gloucestershire County History Trust	David Aldred
Gloucestershire Family History Society	Elaine Schollar, Vicky Thorpe
Gloucester Street History Group (Winchcombe)	Rob White
Gotherington Local History Society	Caroline Meller
Leckhampton Local History Society	Anne Gale, Stephen Gale
Maisemore Local History Society	David Jones, Ros Lane
Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group	Jane Butler, Paul Butler
Oakridge History Group	John Loosley
Painswick Local History Society	Carol Maxwell, Peter Jackson
Stonehouse History Group	Janet Hudson, Vicki Walker
Stroud Local History Society	Tony Macer
Stroudwater Navigation Archives Charity	Lois Francis
Swindon Village Society Local History Group	Eileen Allen
Tidenham History Group	Gerald McBride, Liz McBride
Winchcombe History Group	John Hancock

42 attendees

Apologies for absence:

Berkeley Local History Group	Margaret Orchard
Dursley & Cam Society and Friends of Purton	Janet Presley
Friends of Gloucester Waterways Museum	Tony Burton
Gloucestershire Archives	John Putley
Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology	Ray Wilson
Prestbury Local History Society	Val Porter
Stroud and District Learners Circle	John Peters
Stroud Local History Society	Howard Beard
Tewkesbury Historical Society	John Dixon

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed people attending for the first time: Jemma Fowkes (Glos Archives speaker), Stuart Manton (Cheltenham LHS), who had brought along an excellent display of work with Naunton Park Primary School, Gerald and Liz McBride (Tidenham History Group) and Denise Vizer (Gloucestershire Archaeology). The Chair also welcomed Harvey Mattinson from the recently-formed Birdlip History Group, who was attending as an observer.

Minutes of the Members' Forum Monday March 11th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Ros Lane (Maisemore) asked about whether GLHA could discuss how local history is covered on Radio Gloucestershire. The Chairman said that the item would be included on the next GLHA Committee Agenda.

Chairman's Annual Report by Steven Blake

Members were emailed a written report before the meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the following additional points.

Local History Day 2024.

To be held on Saturday 27th July at Hartpury College with the theme of Life Stories. There are still tickets left for the Day at £12 to include refreshments and a buffet lunch. Programme and booking forms on the GLHA website.

Bryan Jerrard Award

The Chairman thanked the judges David Aldred and Mike Greet for their work, particularly Mike, has been a judge for around 15 years. Mike is standing down this year and his place will be filled by John Chandler. Steve is intending to remain as the Chair of the judges but requires someone to take over the administration of the award from next year. The shortlist for the 2023 Award had been agreed and the authors would be contacted shortly. Prizes for the winner and runner-up would be awarded at the Local History Day.

Summer Afternoon meetings

Thanks to Blockley for hosting in 2023 and the Forest of Dean LHS for hosting this year at Coleford. There are just a few places left – booking form available on the GLHA website.

Offers to host in 2025 and beyond are very welcome. Please contact Vicki if you would like to host a summer afternoon event.

Website

Thanks to Ray Wilson for maintaining and updating our website, and in particular the comprehensive list of the County's local history organisations, the list of talks organised by GLHA member groups, and our Speakers and Visits & Tours Lists, both of which were updated, with new entries, during 2023-4. A further update of the Visits and Tours list is currently underway.

Glosdocs

New resources continue to be added to the site.

You can find out more about GlosDocs at <https://glosdocs.org.uk/glosdocs-about/>

Thanks

As this was his last Forum as Chairman, Steve thanked all the organisations and individuals who have supported GLHA over the past 12 years. He particularly thanked the committee for their hard work behind the scenes. He wished the Association, its Committee and all its members the very best for 2024-5 and for many years to come.

The meeting voted unanimously to accept the Chair's Annual Report.

Farewell to Steven Blake

Vicki Walker read a thank you speech outlining Steve's work in setting up GLHA in 2012 and the wide range of tasks he has undertaken as Chairman since then. (see next page)

Member groups and individuals had been asked if they wished to contribute to a farewell gift and a generous total of £600 had been collected which was presented to Steve along with a card and best wishes from everyone.

Farewell to Steven Blake

Steve has thanked everyone for their work and now it's time to give him thanks for his work as Chairman over the past twelve years.

I checked the signing in book for his first attendance which was on September 9th 2010 at GLHA's predecessor – the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Local History Committee. I have a feeling that he had been brought along by the then Chairman John Loosley with a view to persuading him to take over the role! By February 2011 he was signing in as Chairman.

No sooner had he been elected Chairman than GRCC decided they could no longer support the Local History Committee. The final meeting of that Committee was on February 2012 to discuss the way forward. Steve had drawn up a draft document as to how a new group might work. In March 2012 a working group met to discuss the new group, with Steve as Chairman, and the new constitution was drawn up. Gloucestershire Local History Association was born - in no small part due to Steve's leadership.

In June 2012 the first Forum of the new group was held, and in September 2012, the new GLHA constitution was officially agreed and the new committee elected with Steve as Chairman.

Since then he has worked hard to develop and publicise the Association. The new Association sought to raise awareness of its existence within both the local history and the wider community – Steve wrote articles, supported Ray Wilson in setting up the website and encouraged the creation of a newsletter, leaflets and posters.

The Chairman contacted all 60 groups in Gloucestershire to invite them to join. Membership in 2012 was 44. In 2024 it is 54. Interest has been maintained and increased.

Steve saw working in partnership with other groups as an important role for GLHA – supporting bids for local history projects e.g. Gloucestershire Remembers WW1, Know Your Place and particularly Gloucestershire Archives in their For the Record project - resulting in the improvements we see today at the Heritage Hub. He was also a member of the Heritage Hub User Group.

Just a few of the tasks that Steve has taken on include:

- Contacting speakers and arranging talks and discussions for our Forum meetings
- Organising local history walks around the county
- Setting up workshops in conjunction with Glos Archives
- Supporting Ray with the website and Glosdocs
- Managing the Local History Days and supporting the Afternoons
- Managing the Bryan Jerrard award as head judge
- Coping with Covid and Zoom!
- Mundane tasks such as setting up the room for meetings, putting out tables and chairs, making sure refreshments are there
- Not forgetting Charing committee meetings and Forums

And finally – He always remembers to thank people who have contributed to GLHA events and meetings and he always remembers people's names!

A very hard act to follow! So thanks Steve for all your work and we hope you can now find time for your other interests and holidays!

Treasurer's Report by David Scriven

Members had been emailed a written report presenting the GLHA's financial accounts for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, along with a detailed statement of Accounts. The Accounts had been approved by our Independent Examiner, Sue Brown, who was thanked by the Treasurer. Signed copies of the Accounts could be obtained from the Treasurer if required. The Chairman thanked David for his excellent work throughout the year. There were no questions.

The meeting voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report and accounts and to invite Sue Brown to continue in her role as Independent Examiner for the year ending March 2025.

Report of enquiries received via email to GLHA by Janet Hudson

Members had received a written report. The Chairman thanked Janet Hudson for her work dealing with enquiries. The number of enquiries has increased this year.

Election of committee members for 2024 – 25

The Committee 2023 – 24 were:

Steven Blake (BGAS)
Janet Hudson (Stonehouse History Group)
David Jones (Maisemore LHS)
Sally Self (Cheltenham LHS)
David Scriven (Cheltenham LHS)
Mary Sullivan (Forest of Dean LHS)
Vicki Walker (Stonehouse History Group)

All committee members 2023/24 were willing to stand with the exception of Steven Blake.

There had been one nomination for a new committee member – Geoff Bridgman (Charlton Kings LFHS).

John Loosley proposed that the existing committee members standing with the addition of Geoff Bridgman were elected en bloc. There were no objections.

The committee were elected unanimously.

The Committee 2024 – 25

Geoff Bridgman (Charlton Kings LHS)
Janet Hudson (Stonehouse History Group)
David Jones (Maisemore LHS)
Sally Self (Cheltenham LHS)
David Scriven (Cheltenham LHS)
Mary Sullivan (Forest of Dean LHS)
Vicki Walker (Stonehouse History Group)

Election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for 2024 - 25

The Officers 2023 – 24 were:

Chairman - Steven Blake (BGAS)
Treasurer - David Scriven (Cheltenham LHS)
Secretary - Vicki Walker (Stonehouse History Group)

David Scriven and Vicki Walker are willing to stand. Steven Blake does not wish to stand.

There had been one nomination for Chair - Sally Self (Cheltenham LHS).

David Jones proposed that the officers – Treasurer David Scriven, Secretary Vicki Walker and Chair Sally Self be elected en bloc. There were no objections.

The officers were elected unanimously.

The Officers 2024 – 25

Chair – Sally Self (Cheltenham)
Treasurer - David Scriven (Cheltenham LHS)
Secretary - Vicki Walker (Stonehouse History Group)

Report from Glos County History Trust by David Aldred (Trustee)

David requested that groups send out the VCH newsletter to their members if possible. It is sent to all via GLHA. Next issue due in July.

Report from Gloucestershire Archives

Members had received a written report from John Putley (Community Heritage Officer) before the meeting. John was unable to attend. Any questions may be directed to John via the secretary, Vicki Walker walkeravsj@aol.com

AOB

- Caroline Meller (Gotherington and Gloucester) reported that she had experienced a problem with a speaker trying to charge more for travel expenses than the amount quoted on the GLHA Speakers List. Representatives agreed that it was important to agree fees and expenses before booking a speaker. GLHA agrees that speakers should normally abide by what they have submitted to the GLHA Speakers List which Ray updates regularly.
- Paul Butler reported that Nailsworth had had a speaker who they felt were not of acceptable quality, although they were on the GLHA Speakers List. The Chairman replied that GLHA does try to assess speakers, but sometimes receive conflicting reports where one group or individual has been very pleased with a speaker which another has not been satisfied with. If several poor reports are received then speakers may be removed from the List – two speakers have been removed. However GLHA does state that inclusion on the List is not necessarily a recommendation.

The Chairman thanked Joan Hughes for organising refreshments.

He also reminded members to book their tickets for the Local History Day on July 27th.

The new Chair, Sally Self introduced herself and her background. An *“Introduction to our new Chair”* will be sent out with these minutes.

**There being no further business there was a short break before a presentation by:
Jemma Fowkes, Community Heritage Officer at Gloucestershire Archives
*“Working with schools: why local history organisations have plenty to offer”***

Jemma is an experienced teacher and historian, employed by the Archives as part of their Partnership Learning and Outreach Team.

She showed examples of some of the projects that she and the team have been working on particularly with Voices Gloucester. They have worked with students from ages 5-18, and their teachers, to help them learn about the history of their local area.

The presentation gave members some ideas of the sort of projects that schools could be working on. The next step is to see how local history groups can help. The Forum in September will include a workshop discussing practical ways of getting involved with schools.

Jemma said that groups may refer teachers to Glos Archives to help with resources and planning and also ask for advice if they wish to assist schools themselves.

Here is Jemma’s email. jemma.fowkes@gloucestershire.gov.uk

The Powerpoint presentation and documents will be sent out with these minutes for those unable to attend.

Our next Forum meeting on Monday 9th September at 2.00 pm will follow on from this:

Into the Classroom - This workshop will aim at encouraging you to consider an aspect of your local history that would interest children and achieve the National Curriculum History statutory requirements.

Agreed at a meeting on.....

Signed.....(Chair)