



## GLUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

### Chair's report to GLHA Forum 9 September 2024

#### Introduction

At the AGM on 21 June, we said a reluctant goodbye to Steven Blake who has chaired the Association so admirably for 12 years. We presented him with a cheque for £600 collected from GLHA societies, groups and individuals. We welcomed Geoff Bridgman, Charlton Kings Local and Family History Society, as a new member of the Committee. Otherwise, the Committee personnel remained unchanged. I was elected Chair, as no other nominations had been received. For full details of the Committee please see the Minutes of the Forum 21 June 2024 or go to the GLHA website 'About Us' page.

<https://gloshistory.org.uk/about-us/>

#### Summer Afternoon Meeting – Coleford, Sunday 30 June

Attended by around 70 people, the meeting was organised by the Forest of Dean Local History Society and was held at The Main Place in Coleford. Following an introductory talk on the history of the town by Chris Sullivan, the attendees had a choice of a visit by car or one of three walks. One group drove to the 12<sup>th</sup> century Newland church for a conducted tour. There was also a Hidden Heritage walk to explore the more unusual aspects of Coleford including the Whitecliff furnace; a short walk exploring features of the town centre; or a chance to go on a dry pub crawl, visiting the sites of around 40 public houses, many now closed, some repurposed and others that had disappeared.

We finished with an excellent tea and a chance to chat and swop information. We thank the FofDLH Society for such a well organised, interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

For more details please visit

[https://gloshistory.org.uk/sites/archive/glha\\_summer\\_meeting\\_report\\_coleford\\_2024.pdf](https://gloshistory.org.uk/sites/archive/glha_summer_meeting_report_coleford_2024.pdf)

#### Local History Day at Hartpury University – Saturday 27 July

The day was held in the modern Graze building, a recent addition to Hartpury University. The surroundings were excellent and the support given by the staff, in particular Lily Blueman, was first class. Doors opened at 9:30 for Societies and Groups to set up their displays. There were 14 well researched displays on the theme of this year's meeting, 'Gloucestershire Life Stories'. Gloucestershire Archives and Gloucestershire County History Trust also attended to promote their activities and The History Press provided a bookstall.

At 10:30 members and visitors arrived for tea and coffee, with the chance to view the displays, meet old friends and make new ones.

The morning talk was given by Maureen Anderson on *Major General Sir Fabian Ware - 'A truly great Gloucestershire man'*, who, as well as being a teacher and a journalist, was the founder and chair of the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Gloucestershire branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

The long lunch break followed with excellent refreshments, and the chance to view the displays and to network. There was also the opportunity to view part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hartpury House and gardens. The History Press were offering a generous discount for those tempted to buy from their stall.

The afternoon talk was by Steven Blake on *George Rowe (1796-1864), artist and lithographer, from Gloucestershire to the goldfields of Australia*. Rowe worked in Cheltenham for twenty years, producing work covering Cheltenham, Cirencester, Gloucester and Tewkesbury, before moving to the Australian goldfields, where as a 'goldfield artist', he recorded the atmosphere and hard life of the prospectors.

The afternoon concluded with the announcement and presentation of the Bryan Jerrard Award. Bryan was once again able to attend after a long journey from Portsmouth. We thank him, very sincerely, for his continuing support of this annual award, which has done a great deal to raise and maintain the standard of local history writing in Gloucestershire.

### **Bryan Jerrard Award 2023**

Bryan presented certificates and prizes to the winner, Richard Chidlaw, for his article 'Dursley Clothiers and their Mills, 1450-1600', published in *The Dursley Lantern* **19** and the runner-up, Michael Hare, for 'The Survival of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Chancel Fittings of St Mary's Church, Deerhurst during the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries', in *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* **140**. We thank The History Press for once again sponsoring the prizes.

We would also like to thank Michael Greet, who has retired after 15 years as a member of the judging panel. His place has been taken by Dr John Chandler, who has recently retired as VCH County Editor. Steven Blake continues as Chair of the Judges. Member groups' Journals may be entered for the award either by posting to Steven Blake, 'Delton', Fairmount Road, Cheltenham, GL51 7AQ or by handing a copy to GLHA Chair, Sally Self, at a GLHA meeting.

### **Website**

We continue to be grateful for and to acknowledge the valuable work that Ray Wilson does in maintaining and updating the site. Recently, he has added reports on the GLHA events at Coleford and Hartpury, and updated the committee details.

Although Ray will continue to maintain the bulk of the GLHA website, the Speakers List will now be managed by Mary Sullivan. The introduction to the Speakers List and the Guidance Notes will be updated to clarify the GLHA's position. This is in response to the two comments that were raised at the last Forum: that of a discrepancy in the fee published in the Speaker's List and that quoted by a speaker when contacted, and the disappointment caused to members by a talk that did not meet expectations. We encourage speakers to keep their entries up to date and GLHA welcomes feedback on speakers. We are also considering ways to introduce a more formal method of obtaining positive and negative comments on speakers.

**Glosdocs <https://glosdocs.org.uk>**

Recent major additions include: 60 volumes of Charlton Kings Local History Research Bulletins.

Ongoing projects are: Gloucestershire Historical Studies; 13 volumes of essays produced by Bristol University Extra Mural Studies students, seven are now completed and a further six will soon be added; Lionel Walrond collection, a further 2,000+ images to be added to the existing 2,000+.

**Victoria County History 'The Big Red Books' of Gloucestershire**

I am a Trustee for the Gloucestershire County History Trust, the financial body that funds all the current volumes being researched in the county. Currently this is Cheltenham, Yate and district, and Cirencester and the newly proposed volumes on Winchcombe and the Marshfield area. I shall therefore occasionally report on the progress of the Gloucestershire volumes.

Sally Self

September 2024