

Chair's Report to GLHA Forum, 6th September 2018

Future GLHA events

Following a preliminary discussion at the June Forum, the Committee has discussed this further and would like to suggest the following –

- That we hold a Local History Day on a specific theme every other year, inviting groups to prepare displays on the theme as well as having up to three speakers. We propose that the next Local History Day will be held in the Spring of 2020 **and would welcome suggestions for a theme by 31st October, so that a list of suggested topics can be circulated to Forum members for comment before our next GLHA Committee meeting on 28th November. We hope to agree a theme at our December 2018 Forum, to give groups well over a year to prepare displays.** Churchdown Community Centre, where we have held our last two Local History Days, has many advantages, but its audio-visual facilities are not ideal; **we would welcome suggestions for alternative venues with comparable facilities, including ample parking.**
- That between Local History Days we hold a smaller-scale half-day event, with speakers, but no displays, and that we aim to organise the first such event in the Spring of 2019. **We would welcome suggestions for topics and speakers and for possible venues for such a meeting: again, good audio-visual facilities will be needed, but less space will be required.**
- That the Committee explores the possibility of GLHA having a role – yet to be defined – at the Gloucester History Festival in 2019 and in subsequent years. **The Committee would welcome suggestions as to how we might best promote local history at the Festival.**

We would welcome Forum members' thoughts on the above suggestions.

Bryan Jerrard Award 2018

Whatever pattern of future meetings is agreed, the Bryan Jerrard Award will still be given annually. If your Group produces one, please let me have a copy of your latest Journal or Bulletin by the end of 2018; the date and place where the winner and runner-up for this year's award are to be announced will be agreed in due course.

Summer Afternoon Meetings

Our 2018 Summer Afternoon Meeting was held on 23rd June, courtesy of Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society and was attended by around 60 people. We are grateful to Alan Strickland and his colleagues for organising a very successful meeting.

Our 2019 Summer Meeting will be held at Tidenham in west Gloucestershire, courtesy of Tidenham History Group, on 29th June. Full details and a booking form will be emailed to members and posted on our website in due course.

Because of the difficulty of finding suitable parking in Nailsworth on Saturdays, our 2020 Summer Meeting, to be hosted by Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group, will be held on a Sunday;

the date of the Meeting will be announced in due course. **We would welcome offers to host Summer Afternoon Meetings from 2021 onwards.**

Summer Evening visits

Our two Summer evening visits were both very successful. Twenty-seven people attended Ray Wilson's walk along some of the mills of the Painswick Stream on 30th July and 25 people attended the visit to the medieval St Bartholomew's church at Churchdown on 21st August. We are most grateful to Ray for organising his walk and to the Friends of St Bartholomew's church for hosting our visit, including the provision of refreshments. **We would welcome suggestions for future evening visits.**

An account of our three Summer events will be included in the Heritage Hub's Autumn e-newsletter and in the new 'Archive' section of our own website.

Website

We are grateful to Ray Wilson for maintaining our website and for updating the list of Speakers, the list of Visits and Tours and the list of Society Meetings, which currently includes those of 30 of our member groups. Ray has also introduced a new 'Archive' section of the website to enable us to maintain a permanent record of GLHA activities: the first article is an account of the 2018 Local History Day; other articles will follow. **If you have not yet let Ray have a note of your Group's programme of meetings for September onwards, please do so as soon as possible. Thereafter, the next deadline for submissions to the list will be 1st December: please ensure that you submit your programme in the format stated on the relevant page of the website [https://www.gloshistory.org.uk/submit_prog.php] and email to webmaster@gloshistory.org.uk.**

Glosdocs

Ray Wilson continues to develop the Gloucestershire Local History Documents website. Recent additions include a copy of the first minute book of the Thames and Severn Canal Company (1783-1822) and various articles on the history of Redlers of Stroud, written by former employees. If you have not already done so, you can find out more about the project at <https://glosdocs.org.uk/about-glosdocs>.

Partnership working with Gloucestershire Archives/Heritage Hub

GLHA Committee members continue to represent the Association on the Heritage Hub Stakeholders' Group and we now have cupboards at the Archives in which to store our files, sound system, posters, crockery etc. The GLHA posters and leaflets were displayed at the Heritage Hub Open Day on September 2nd, and we are grateful to the Archives for the loan of display boards. The winning display at our 2017 Local History Day (Forest of Dean Local History Society) will be shown at the Hub between October and December, and the 2018 winner (Nailsworth Society Local History Research Group) early in 2019. The Local History section of the Hub e-newsletter has a regular 'slot' for articles relating to GLHA and its member groups; **any Group wishing to write an article on an aspect of their activities would be welcome to do so – please contact me for further details.**

South West Area Group of Family History Societies Fair, Swindon, 30th June

Along with our other Hub partners, I attended this event with the GLHA posters and leaflets: it proved a valuable opportunity to promote GLHA to a wider audience.

Future Forum Meetings

Monday 3rd December 2018, 2.00pm, followed by a talk on mistletoe by Jonathan Briggs

Monday 18th March 2019, 2.00pm: Ally McConnell (Gloucestershire Archives) on the Dowty Archive

Thursday 20th June 2019, 7.00pm: AGM, followed by Kate O'Keefe (Gloucestershire Archives) on the EVOKE Reminiscence project

Thursday 5th September 2019, 7.00pm: speaker to be arranged

Monday 2nd December 2019 2.00pm: speaker to be arranged

All the above meetings will be held at the Heritage Hub. **We would welcome suggestions for speakers and topics for discussion at future Forums.**

Steven Blake

Chair, GLHA

6th September 2018

Email: steven.blake@deltonglos.plus.com