

▶ **RIGHT:** This building, one of the ugliest in the City in my opinion, had lain abandoned for some years. However with some help from the Southgate THI the upper stories have been turned into accommodation and the ground floor is a retail unit ready to let. What has made all the difference is the appearance is the addition of copper cladding to the exterior.



▶ **LEFT:** Copper cladding to the exterior.

Another example is the work done on Southgate News as shown below.



▶ **ABOVE & LEFT** "Photos of Southgate News before and after"

Southgate Street Townscape Heritage Educational Resources Pack

https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/media/1189/how_to_use_the_resources_and_links.pdf



This is another piece of work which Claire arranged to have produced which is available online (link above or google Southgate THI education pack).

The aim of this education pack is to raise awareness and understanding of the architectural heritage of the Southgate area of Gloucester. It will enable young people to explore the buildings and wider environment of Southgate Street. It will help them to evaluate the quality of the built heritage and define what is important to them in this area. The education pack is aimed at upper key stage 2, but could easily be adapted and used with younger children. The resource has been developed for Gloucester City Council and includes plans, presentations, worksheets, images and resources to be used both in school and during field visits to Southgate Street.

It is also a great resource for anyone interested in the Heritage on Southgate Street.

▶ **LEFT:** One of the fine buildings on Southgate Street



Civic Trust News

Gloucester Civic Trust Ltd
Reg. Charity No. 264719

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The Folk of Gloucester

www.bishophooperhouse.co.uk



Editors Letter

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Once again in this Newsletter, we remain unable to confirm that we have taken a lease from Gloucester Historic Buildings to run what we are calling "The Folk". However progress has been made in preparing for that time as you will see inside.

We can report that the re-generation projects at deCrypt and Llanthony Priory

are very much up and running and are now two top quality venues in Gloucester. Thanks to Marketing Gloucester we are also beginning to build the events to go with the venues. The whole summer season of events, SOMAC, is featured in this issue. The Gloucester Music Festival, now in its third season, offers a diverse, quality programme of concerts.

Looking forward, Gloucester hosts the Three Choirs Festival at the end of July this year. It is the oldest non-competitive classical music festival in the world and will be followed by the somewhat younger but equally important History Festival in September.



Information and articles are always appreciated.
Please contact Alex Bailey,
Tel: 01452 840579 or e-mail newsletter@gloucestercivictrust.org





This is the "Mission Statement" for the Folk!

Known locally as "The Folk"

An exhibition and events space housed in a large Tudor building in Lower Westgate, Gloucester, which tells the story of Gloucester Folk from Tudor times to the modern day. Many exhibits are on loan from the City Museum in Gloucester and cover the national events that took place in Gloucester (such as the Siege of Gloucester) as well as the day to day lives of Gloucester folk. The building was at one time known as the "Folk Museum".

Also explored are the history of the building and the many trades that were carried

on within its walls such as "pin making", for which at one time Gloucester was the major manufacturing centre. There is also a "Victorian Schoolroom" on site open to visitors and also available for booking by school parties. Events are held throughout the year including Apple week when, on Apple Day, an original horse driven apple press is demonstrated and a weekend when we celebrate the Cotton motorcycle which was first built in Gloucester. Many other events give Story Tellers, Craft Demonstrators, Re-enactors, Morris dancers and period Musicians an

opportunity to show off their talents. The courtyard in the centre of the complex has the mounting point for a Maypole.

The building has an excellent café where visitors can take a break including a delightful "Tudor" garden area when the weather suits.

Also on site are a pair of excellent, state of the art, meeting rooms which are available for hire.

The Folk Committee



Pictured at our first meeting on the 11th April Sue Smith, Richard Crowhurst, David Champion, Marc Waters and Alex Bailey. Emily Gibbon could not make this meet but here is a photo of her from this year's Folk Trail.

The Folk Committee has been set up to manage the operation at The Folk and to prepare the ground for our Manager when one is appointed. So who is on this committee?

Alex Bailey is Chairing the group. Alex joined the Trust about 17 years ago and trained as a City Guide. He organised the Heritage Open Days for a five year period introducing music to many of the venues. For the last five years he has edited the Newsletter (including this one!). He is on the COM for the Civic Trust and is also a Director of Gloucester Historic Buildings and Marketing Gloucester (where he represents the interests of the Trust).

The rest of the team in alphabetical order,

David Champion is the longest serving COM member on the team and was heavily involved all the stages of establishing St

Michaels Tower. David is leading on the changes to the EdShed to make it easier to operate. He runs the Street Survey Group for the COM.

Richard Crowhurst joined the COM at the start of this year. He recently retired from the actuarial profession and is able to bring his extensive financial knowledge and experience to the team. Together with Sue he is acting secretary and treasurer. Richard is also a Director of Gloucester Historic Buildings.

Emily Gibbon is a younger member of the COM and works for Marketing Gloucester. She gives us valuable input on marketing and also setting up systems to reach a wide range of individuals.

Sue Smith joined 5 years ago, qualified last year as a City Guide and is a member of the Council of Management (COM). She

Chairs the Membership Team and has used the History Festival for a Membership Drive each year since 2015, increasing our membership from 270 to 600. She was a Practice Manager for over 20 years, and has considerable Financial and HR experience. Together with Richard she is acting secretary and treasurer.

Marc Waters is a more recent member of the COM and has helped organise the volunteers at the History Festival and is a key member of the communications team. He is concentrating on organising the events at The Folk and recruiting volunteers when the time arrives for us to need them.

Maggie Goodchild, our liaison with the Guides Team and **Phil Moss** who is working on displays (especially for the Siege of Gloucester) are team members but do get involved in the general meetings.

Heritage Open Days

Paul Drinkwater, HOD Co-ordinator



Good progress is being made by the team for this year's HOD Friday 13th to Monday 16th September. This year we are reverting to the middle weekend of the History Festival but note the change from Friday to Monday rather than the usual Thursday to Sunday in line with National HOD guidelines.

We have four new guided walks – 'Peace & Remembrance', 'Gloucester Statues',

'Kingsholm & Wotton' and 'Lost Schools'. Thanks to our willing guides all walks are now covered.

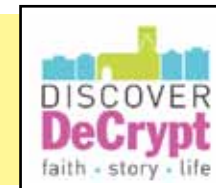
New openings this year are 'WI House' in Brunswick Square and 'The Olympus Theatre in Barton Street'. Unfortunately we will not be opening the Tudor Room or Hedleys Cellar due to change in ownership.

Our usual performers will again provide

Musical events and we have eight brand new talks on offer.

I will shortly be appealing to all Civic Trust members to help with stewarding in the confidence that our willing volunteers will again make it another successful HOD weekend.

Paul Drinkwater
HOD Co-ordinator



Railings around deCrypt Completed

Part of Southgate Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

A celebration was held on the 14th June to mark the completion of the Railings around the Church and to formally open the gates. The Trust paid for the railings at the back of the Church which completed the job and meant that the Churchyard could be secured and used with youth groups.

RIGHT: The Deputy Mayor Collette Finnegan is shown prepared to cut the ribbon together with Claire Dovey-Evans who is the Manager of the Southgate Townscape Heritage Initiative and your Editor Alex Bailey who said a few words on behalf of the Trust. Note the new stone gatepost in the background.



ABOVE: "The Workers" On the left is Jonny Anderson who is the stonemason who managed the work. Alongside

Jonny is Marcus Landure from Young Gloucestershire. He completed the final phase of the work with Jonny. He was part

of a Prince's Trust initiative that is completed in partnership with Young Gloucestershire. It provides a 12 week programme of skills development, and work experience for young people not in work or education. Finally to the right is Jon Cicuttin. He is the metal worker / blacksmith who created and installed the railings. Marcus was so inspired by the work that he hopes to become an apprentice stonemason at the Cathedral.

It was also an opportunity to review progress with the Southgate THI (which still has about a year to run). The way the scheme works is that landlords are offered assistance to upgrade their properties, the important element being that the Landlords have to put in a significant amount towards the work as well. In this way the grant money has a far bigger effect than if it had just been directly spent on a single building. One building which has benefitted is 39 to 41 Southgate Street.

Membership Matters

Sue Smith, Membership



Membership now stands at just under 600.

We are always looking for ways to recruit new members so if you are a member of another organisation looking for someone to come and give a talk I am happy to bring along a presentation about the Civic Trust and our achievements since we were set up in 1972. In June I spoke to the local Probus club and several people decided to join. Please email me if you need a speaker memberscivictrust@gmail.com

I shall soon be asking for volunteers to help with our annual Membership Drive at Blackfriars talks from Saturday 14th until

Sunday 22nd September. If you are interested please let me know as I shall receive advance notice of the programme.

Office - We were hoping to be settled in our new premises, The Folk of Gloucester, Bishop Hooper House, Westgate Street, by now but there have been even more delays unfortunately as the legal matters are extremely complicated. Once we have the building we intend to use it for a lot more events for the membership. We are anticipating that we shall be able to use part of it by the Autumn and have a provisional date booked for a New Members Social event in November. See below!

Social Events



Nearly 70 members and friends enjoyed a lovely afternoon in Highnam Court at the beginning of June. Even the rain stopped for us! Roger Head was very generous with his time and showed us around his beautiful house which he has spent years restoring to its former glory. His enthusiasm for both his house and garden makes his talk and tour a wonderful experience. We are very fortunate that he is happy to host us every year as there are always more people wanting to take up this special offer. I already have a waiting list for next year and the date is likely to be in early June again so we can enjoy the rose garden in particular.

Tuesday 9th July, 6pm

A guided tour around Cirencester by one of the Guides from Cirencester Civic Society with some refreshments afterwards. This is now fully booked and I have a waiting list for next time!

Tuesday 30th July, 6pm

A guided tour around Gloucester with our own guides, followed by a social evening with a light buffet in the New Inn. Please be aware that the room we are using, The Regency Suite, is upstairs and I understand there is no lift, unfortunately. The Tour will take approximately one and a half hours so we will be eating about 8pm.

Tuesday 12th November

New Members Social Event in The Ed Shed! This is a provisional date and we hope we will have use of these rooms by then. The Ed Shed is a modern building at the back of Bishop Hooper House. If you have joined in the last two or three years please come along and find out more about Gloucester Civic Trust. More details will follow but in the meantime please let me know if you are interested.

New Members

We welcome 32 new Members since the last Newsletter.

- ♦ Janet & Robert Aubrey
- ♦ Sue Blaen
- ♦ Wendy Calvert
- ♦ Susan Collier
- ♦ Ruth Davies
- ♦ Sharon & Stephen Drew
- ♦ Lita & Rodney Ferneyhough
- ♦ Sandra Hughes
- ♦ Carole Jenkins
- ♦ Clive Kingscote
- ♦ Brian Lehaney
- ♦ Helen Lomberg
- ♦ Frances Mackay
- ♦ Jessica & Donna McNair-Templeton
- ♦ Joyce Palmer
- ♦ Christopher Stacey
- ♦ Amber, Jane & John Storey
- ♦ Sandra Tanner
- ♦ Malcolm Taylor
- ♦ Mike Thorne
- ♦ Andrew & Glenys Van Zanten-Leigh
- ♦ Neil Walden
- ♦ Maggie Williams
- ♦ Carole & Andrew Wrightson



Report from the Folk Committee



The Folk Committee have held five meeting now and significant progress has been made with preparing for the operation of "The Folk". A very significant step forward was the agreement of a name for the operation which fitted well with the former name "The Folk Museum", the name by which most people know the building. It was also important to have agreed the Mission Statement so that we can be clear what it is we are aiming to achieve.

In terms of setting up the infrastructure that's needed to operate the building progress has been made on setting up a bank account. This would seem to be a simple process but I can assure that it is not when it involves a charity! We have identified an accounting package called "Xero" which our accountants PGT use but we do not need it in the initial opening stage. Events are being programmed using a Google Calendar. We have purchased the following domains bishophooperhouse.co.uk, thefolkofgloucester.co.uk. A basic website will be set up soon with the information we have so far linked of course to the Civic Trust Website.

We still await the final documents to allow exchange of contracts to take place. One of the key documents is a draft lease with Gloucester Historic Buildings who will own the building. All documentation is being very carefully checked by Richard who has an excellent eye for detail.

The documents are in place so that we can recruit a Manager and the job will be advertised on the 1st July and we will be in a position to appoint someone at the end of September, provided of course that contracts have been exchanged by then!

The programme of events that we can hold is very limited with the building still in Council hands but a programme has been agreed and Marc will give details in a separate article.

Sarah Orton helped us by putting together job descriptions for two interns from the University to work for us this summer but without having a building that they can work from we had to withdraw. We will try again next year!

Another victim of the late contract exchange is our planned work with the Gloucestershire Arts and Crafts Centre. Last year they supported Apple week with a number of innovative classes and this year we were even talking about a course for people to make their own wicker coffins! However this is all on the back burner at the moment.

An important item of work that has started is the preparation of a "Siege of Gloucester" display. This is being coordinated by Phil Moss with the City Archaeologist Andrew Armstrong, who gave a talk on this subject at the History festival, lending much support. We are also fortunate to have many people who are passionate about this and keen to make it happen. One of these is our own Robert Scott who has already brought his re-enactors to several events.

One area where we are "stalled" is the clearing of stored items from the Wheelwrights workshop. We need this area to be open to the public when we open and are still waiting for the council to remove the stored items.

However one major piece of work was completed by the Council, at a cost of £20,000 the lintel under the front window has been replaced and a new oak frame window has been installed. The colour will naturally darken with age to blend in with the rest of the windows.



One thing that has remained unchanged is the enthusiasm of the Folk Committee and the exciting prospect of operating this great Building.

International Radio Event at The Folk

Report by Marc Waters



Although we do not own the Gloucester Life Museum yet the City allowed us to use it for this International Radio event. The intention of the event was to set up as many amateur radio stations at as many museums across the world as possible. The event started in

2002 with 80 venues and has grown ever since. Gloucester Amateur Radio and Electronics Society (call sign G4AYM) manned the radios in the EdShed. The call sign for the Museum was GM4LMG. This year was a successful, if quiet, day and next year we would hope to publicise the event more.





Events at the Folk

by Marc Waters



Because the Council still own the Gloucester Life Museum (The Folk) and we do not know when we will be able to operate it ourselves we have had to curtail the number of events that we can put on this year. The Council have been very helpful in allowing us to open for these events. Here is a full list of events for your dairies and I will be sending an email shortly with more details and a request for help to make these events a success.

Saturday 15th June
Amateur Radio
already happened see report in this Newsletter

Saturday 10th August
Cotton Motorcycles AGM

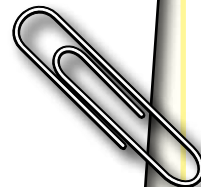
Saturday 24th August
Retro Day

Saturday 7th September
Gloucester Day

Friday 13th September
Heritage Open Days

Saturday 19th October
Apple Day

Saturday 26th October
Poetry at the Folk



SOMAC

Summer of Music, Arts & Culture



On the 13th June this year's SOMAC was launched at The Gloucester Brewery. This is the third year that the festival has been held and a brochure detailing the events is available at the Tourist Information Centre (or to download online). The events are only possible thanks to generous sponsorship from a number of local Companies. Why is this in the Newsletter? Well simply because it is no good having lovely restored historical buildings if they are not being used!



▶ **LEFT:** Dave Dunwell a local Poet read one of his works.



▶ **BELOW:** Jessetha Dayanandan performed for the launch.



▶ **LEFT:** People were welcomed to the event by a "fiery Hula Hoop" dancer!

An important part of SOMAC is the Gloucester Music Festival which this year has events in two venues recently renovated in the City, St Mary deCrypt and Llanthony Priory. The Festival is organised by

ex-Mayor Sebastian Field and his wife Vicki and this year they have put on a great programme. The first event was held in deCrypt and featured local Folk artist Johnny Coppin and Paul Burgess. He played one of his compositions called "The Glorious Glosters" a great tribute to our regiment.



▶ **ABOVE:** Caroline Sharp (Soprano) and Helen Anne Gregory (Mezzo-Soprano) sing a duet "Via Resti" from The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart.

▶ **LEFT:** Johnny Coppin and Paul Burgess.

▶ **BELOW:** Robert-John Edwards (Bass-Baritone) and Richard James Belshaw (Tenor) join the ladies to perform Bella Figlia dell'amore from Rigoletto by Verdi. They followed this with an encore of Nessun Dorma.

Also Vicki Field performed with the Gloucester Community Choir.



This event showed what a great venue deCrypt has become and it is to be used extensively during the Three Choirs Festival latter this year. The Flower festival held here during the Tall Ships was also impressive. I have also heard that visitor numbers are running well above expectations and that room bookings are strong.

Llanthony Seconda Priory was also used for several Music Festival events and in particular a whole day of Jazz bands on Sunday and an Opera Gala night on Saturday. Once again what a great venue for events! The Opera night took place in the barn which has been finished to a high standard.

▶ **RIGHT:** Gina Kruger who played piano for every piece and considering that this ran to 26 items it was quite a feat! She is a very accomplished international artist with degrees in Piano from the United States and a post-graduate diploma from the Royal College of Music. Earlier in the week Gina played for Robert-John Edwards at DeCrypt where he performed Schubert's Winterreise and gave a stunning performance.

