

From Dark to Light

Report from the Events Team at the Folk by Marc Waters



This year has been from Dark to Light. In what feels like a million years ago we started the season of Events@The Folk with Moving Stories Café, which was the first time we had hosted a story telling evening but with the Support of Chloe, Jane and Saffy, it was a chance to hear a range of stories in the atmospheric ground floor of the folk.

The next day we took part in The Gloucester Folk Trail funded by Gloucester Bid, This was a chance to host Morris Dancers from around the county which brought lots of colour to the folk and great activities for the kids. Then COVID-19 Hit, and we were pushed back into the darkness with the rest of the year's events cancelled.

During the lockdown the place was closed to the public but it gave us a chance to get some maintenance done and clear the entrance way to create an open space that we could be used for events and the cafe in the future.

After the COVID-19 Restrictions began to "Normalise" we very quickly began to look at holding events again. We opened for Gloucester Day which was our first opening in 7 months. It was great to open to the public and for Richard Graham MP to come and visit. We had a re-enactors camp in the garden which was a splendid sight and watching them march from the folk into the city was splendid. The video can be seen on the Folk of Gloucester YouTube Channel.

We then hosted a talk for the Gloucester History festival in the evening about the Siege of Gloucester which was our first experience of live streaming.

Since that day we also opened for Heritage open days as part of the Gloucester Civic Trust organised event and hosted some of the talks which will over the next few months be appearing on The Folk YouTube channel.

The Highlight of our Events Calender is Apple day and this year we were determined to hold it once again. It was not as grand affair as usual due to social distancing and no Rosie the Cider horse.

We were extremely fortunate with great weather and the support of many Civic Trust Members like Rob and Gillian Guest, Joan Tucker and all the Volunteers at The Folk of Gloucester that make it happen.

We had 150 visitors which was less than last year but was a great result in the circumstances.

Trust member Viva Lyn presenting us with a fabulous cake featuring the Folk for our cake sale during the Folk Trail. Sally Campbell on the left and Marc Waters on the right complete the group. Photo by Gareth Jayne



The Folk seems to change from grey to full of colour and comes to life when people come and visit her.

Then for the first time we were going to hold a Railway day at the folk but then Lockdown 2 was announced and we weren't able to open to the public, but with a bit more experience of online events we decided that this time we were going to continue with a virtual event.

We had a great talk by Tony Condor about the history of the railways in Gloucester and how it affected the whole country. We had a talk from Aaron Matthews about the Gloucester Carriage and Wagon works and GCT Tour Guide Ian Hatton gave us Tales from the Railway.

We will be filming more of these episodes and screening them on our Youtube Channel in the months to come.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

We are currently finalising the calender for next year, COVID-19 is likely to be a challenge for the first half of next year at least and is a situation that keeps us on our toes with changing guidelines.

We plan to hold a range of events throughout the year with a mixture of our Signature events which include Apple Week, Cotton Motorcycle Rally and new for this year a Siege of Gloucester Festival.

We also plan to hold Evenings @ The Folk which will be events like poetry readings and Story Telling.

Wheelwrights which is part of The Folk which hasn't been open for many years will be opened up and we will be hosting Trades days where expert tradesman will be showing off their skills and giving you glimpses in to some often forgotten industries.

There will be lots to see and do at the Folk of Gloucester in 2021 it will be well worth a visit.

Keep an eye on the newsletter and emails for information and if you want to keep up to date with what's going on like our Facebook page.



Civic Trust News

Gloucester Civic Trust Ltd
Reg. Charity No. 264719

www.gloucestercivictrust.org.uk
Email postbox@gloucestercivictrust.org.uk

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Bygonz at the Tower



We start this edition with a "thank you" from the Trust to Rob and Gillian Guest, better known as "Bygonz". They are Trust members who have brought music and colour to our events for many years. They are pictured here in front of St Michaels Tower on Gloucester Day before moving down to the Folk later in the day.

Editors Letter

newsletter@gloucestercivictrust.org



It has been a year since the last newsletter and whilst we could have ground to a halt with the pandemic we have forged ahead! Albeit not as well as we would in normal times. An article by Gareth Jayne on bringing the digital revolution to the Trust, Helena Taylor explaining the upgrades to

the Website and an article by our very own Col Edward Massie! are perhaps the highlights but the work described by Richard Crowhurst on bringing our financial systems up to date is key to our future success. Whilst we have not been able to open the doors to the Tower or The Folk

very often and our Guided Tours have been badly hit, work has progressed well on preparing for next year. You will read inside that our long serving Chairman, Robin Morris is stepping down at the next AGM and he will be elevated to Honorary Life President.



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



Membership Report

Sue Smith, Membership



Request to all members:

Updating your contact details – please remember to let me know if you now have an email address, or if you have changed it, or if you have moved. Contact me at members@gloucestercivictrust.org

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, we were unable to hold our usual Membership Drive at Blackfriars in September this year, which usually attracts many new members. Some people decided not to renew their membership, for various reasons, including moving away, and we have had few opportunities to attract new ones since March, so our numbers are now down a little at 640. If you know anyone who you think would like to support our causes and meet likeminded people, please encourage them to go to our website www.gloucestercivictrust.org and download a form to join.

Social events - We have very little to report on the social side as we were unable to hold our annual visit to Highnam Court and the planned visit to Reading was also cancelled. There was no opportunity to organise our usual free Guided Tour around Gloucester, aimed at new members, (although anyone can join in if they

have not been able to take part in previous years.) This is one of the benefits of being a member and previously about 40 have signed up for this event each summer. We are also unable to hold our New Members evening in November due to restrictions. However, hopefully next year some of our member's social events will be able to take place again.

Mailshots – News Updates - During the lockdown period we have tried to keep in touch with members through our monthly mailshots News Updates. However, we are aware that we still have a number of members with no email address. If you have not been receiving our News Updates and you now have an email address, or if you have changed it, please let me know, members@gloucestercivictrust.org, and I will add/amend our database.

Meetings with speakers - John Lovell, who usually organises our member meetings in the Gala Club, which of course cannot now take place, has given me his blessing to organise some Zoom meetings for members over the Winter period. The first one will be Andrew Armstrong with his brand-new presentation about Whitefriars, on Thursday 26th November, 7.30pm. This is very exciting

as it is all about the new excavations and what has been found under the old car park. An email invitation will be sent out to members nearer the time but the numbers will be limited. However, we have plans to record it and so it will be available for a period after that date too. You don't need to have a Zoom account as the invitation will have a link to take you to the right place. More information will be sent soon.

Jubilee Celebrations

Report by Sue Smith

We have held two meetings and have also undertaken a survey of members to find out how they would like to celebrate our Jubilee. We received an amazing response, with lots of offers of help and lots of ideas. Thank you to all those who took part.

We are currently working through these and hope to come up with a plan of events covering the whole year starting September 2022.

The Trust welcomes the following new members since the last list in the middle of last year

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ♦ Mrs Dian Aldrich | ♦ Mr David Helson |
| ♦ Ms Claire Arnold | ♦ Mr John Henry |
| ♦ Wendy & Frank Ashcroft | ♦ Mrs Gill Henry |
| ♦ Mrs Liz Ashton | ♦ Mr John Hopper |
| ♦ Mr John Atkins | ♦ Mrs Joy Howard |
| ♦ Ms Juliet Bailey | ♦ Maureen & Martyn Hoydan |
| ♦ Mrs Carole Bastin | ♦ Ms Liz Hunt |
| ♦ Theresa & Ian Batchelor | ♦ Mrs Caroline & Dr John Rhys Jones |
| ♦ Annabel & Tony Bennett | ♦ Mr Aron Jordan, |
| ♦ Judith & Derek Bernard | ♦ Mr Andrew Kanonik, |
| ♦ Joy & Graham Bird | ♦ Caroline & Richard Keenes |
| ♦ Miss Katherine Bird | ♦ Pamela & Charles Kidgell |
| ♦ Mrs Christine & Mr M.A.Browne | ♦ Miss Catherine Lambkin |
| ♦ Mr Andrew Bruce | ♦ Ms Angela Lerwill |
| ♦ Mr Matthew Cass | ♦ Mrs Nancy & Miss Sarah Lister |
| ♦ Owen, Lewis & John Cerys | ♦ Ms Sharon Louis |
| ♦ Anne & Chris Charnock | ♦ Mrs Rebecca Mackinnon |
| ♦ Barbara & Mr M.L. Chivers | ♦ Anne & Terry Matthias |
| ♦ Ms Fiona Clarke | ♦ Dr Irene & Mr Allen Mawby |
| ♦ Miss Susan Cordes | ♦ Candia and Tony McKormack |
| ♦ Mr Walter Cox | ♦ William (Bill) McLaughlin |
| ♦ Mrs Mary Craft | ♦ Mrs Margaret Murphy |
| ♦ Mrs Gilly Crawford | ♦ Mrs Viva O'Flynn |
| ♦ Miss Sarah Cuthbert | ♦ Jane & Michael Orr |
| ♦ Miss Natalie David | ♦ Ms Mandy Parker-Bowen |
| ♦ Mrs Eileen Fry | ♦ Triss & Simon Pollington |
| ♦ Mr Mark Garner | ♦ Mrs Karen Preece |
| ♦ Liz Giles | ♦ Ms Pauline Roberts |
| ♦ Miss Anita Granovska | ♦ Libby & Peter Rolls |
| ♦ Ms Nicolette Hamilton | ♦ Mary & Andy Russell |
| ♦ Mrs Gillian Helme | ♦ Jane & Martin Searle |

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| ♦ Mr Richard Seymour |
| ♦ Mr Jason Smith |
| ♦ Mr Robert Spratt |
| ♦ Ms Yvette Staelens |
| ♦ Miss Rosa Stevens |
| ♦ Mr Brian Swinyard |
| ♦ Dr Toby Thacker |
| ♦ Mrs Margaret & Dr John Waddington |
| ♦ Mrs Jennifer Wasley |
| ♦ Ms Rosemary West |
| ♦ Mr Andy Woods |
| ♦ Mrs Carol Woolcock |
| ♦ Ms Maureen Wray |
| ♦ Mrs Stephanie Wronska |

Exactly 100!

GDPR and Updating your contact details – please remember to let us know if you now have an email address, or if you have changed it, or changed your telephone number or if you have moved.

Email members@gloucestercivictrust.org or write to Membership, Gloucester Civic Trust, Bishop Hooper House, 99-103 Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2PG.

Thank you Sue Smith



Photographs taken at the Autumn events at The Folk

Photos taken by Mike Smith and Gareth Jayne

It is good to see that more people are entering into the spirit and dressing appropriately!



♦ **LEFT AND ABOVE:** It was good to see Lassington Oak represented on Apple Day although they could not perform, Martyn Thomas was joined by musicians Christine Reynolds, Gareth and Jo Heatley

♦ **RIGHT:** resplendent looking Paul and Hilary Drinkwater on Gloucester Day.. Paul leads the team that organise Heritage Open Days.



♦ **ABOVE** Anita Granovska who has joined the events team at the The Folk with Steve Tamplin who is a founder member of the Gloster Garrison.



♦ **LEFT:** Sue Smith and Ivan Taylor (4 Gates) are pictured with Alan Myatt on Apple Day.
♦ **ABOVE:** Apple Pressing and using the peeling machine were very popular with families on Apple Day. This was organised by Judy Bailey in the middle of the action!

Tour Guides Group

Early on in the history of the Gloucester Civic Trust a guides section was set up with aspiring guides being trained and then tested by a Blue Badge Guide examiner before being passed as a guide. In 2015 at Heritage Open Days a plaque was presented to Elizabeth Elton by Mayor Sebastian Field to celebrate her being our 100,000th customer on a tour in the City. The team has been led for some time by Colin Nyland and he, together with members of his team, has sent the following,



Colin Nyland

I have enjoyed heading up the Tour Guides for Gloucester Civic Trust over the last 26 years. We have over sixty registered Guides who undertake Tours of the City and Docks together with Themed Tours and Talks - which bring in an income and recognition to the local Trust. I am helped in this task by a vibrant team to whom I am grateful. They report to the C.O.M on which I have also served over the years.



Chris Morgan

A series of training talks for new guides (and members who wish to come along) is normally held during February and March. These talks are given by different speakers to cover many

aspects of the city, docks and the Cathedral. They contain much interesting and often new material which is useful to our team of guides. With the Covid situation the plan is to record these and have them available online.

I have many ideas about training in the coming year, which at present remain flexible as much will depend on the circumstances prevailing and any restrictions in force.

Once a clearer picture can be seen I will discuss my plans with my colleagues on the Guides Committee (T3). I'm looking forward to training once again, as I've missed it this season, and to meeting the challenges of finding new ways to make it an excellent and enjoyable course to fully meet all expectations.



Roger Peel

I joined the Civic Trust around 2010, and qualified as a tour guide the following year. I have only ever had three employments, the first for eighteen months, starting in 1963, as an office boy in the optical industry followed by service in the RAF. Towards the end my RAF service my family and I settled in Churchdown which was convenient for my final employment at GCHQ. My hobbies are beekeeping, allotment keeping and travel.

My primary input into the Civic Trust is to organise guides for our walks and guide speaker events. Visitors' requests for guided walks arrive almost exclusively via e-mail following the links on the refurbished website. Our city tour is the most popular and taking 2019 as a 'normal' year I handled fifty-two guided walk requests from the likes of history societies and U3A groups from as far afield as London and Manchester, drawing on help from fellow guide Helena Taylor for the Roman tours. The visitor numbers were anything from two to forty or more participants per tour with each guide being allocated about ten visitors. As well as the tour bookings, from the Spring to the Autumn, I design the rota list for a volunteer guide to lead a city tour starting at St Michael's Tower. This is often a fiddly task spread over nearly two hundred days and I am very thankful to have a fantastic team of qualified volunteer guides who willingly give their time and are ready to meet visitors at sometimes short notice.

Year on year the tour numbers have increased and this due in no small means by having a refurbished Civic Trust website. Volunteer guides Helena Taylor, Jenny Kingscroft, Brendan McAlerney and Jim Dillon are warmly thanked for their help.

Next year the tours will change as the Folk will be closely involved as a destination for rota tours (starting at the Tower) and a starting point for booked tours using the cafe on site.

For coach groups I will have The Folk as the default set down and pick up point and from where guides will start their tours. If refreshments are required, so much the better.

Another key member of the team is Helena Taylor and here is her article on the Website.

WEBSITE



Helena Taylor

Over the past two years, there has been a significant redevelopment of the Civic Trust website. Our aim has been to provide relevant up-to-date information on the Trust's activities. Here you can find details of the talks and events at the Tower and The Folk. The Events section of the website has a Calendar of events where all activities are listed. This section also includes the details for the monthly talks, Heritage Open Days, and Gloucester History Festival.

In the Guided Walks section, you will find details of the range of walks & tours that are on offer and information on how to book.

The History section of the website has a wealth of information about the history of Gloucester from Roman times.

The website also serves as a resource for members and guides. In these sections we are collating resources to support members and guides in their stewarding and guiding duties.

So please do take a look at our website at GloucesterCivictrust.org

I am continuing to add material to the website so if you have any questions then please do email website@gloucestercivictrust.org

Robert Scott aka Col Edward Massie



Rob Scott joined the Trust relatively recently bringing a range of skills and sheer drive which has transformed our presence in the City at celebratory events. He is minded to form a Gloster Garrison based at the Folk; new recruits welcome! Here is his story,

♦ **ABOVE:** Col Edward Massie with Gloucester MP Richard Graham on Gloucester Day in front of the Folk. Photo by Mike Smith

My name is Robert Scott and I am a Re-enactor of "Living History".

This has been my pastime and chief hobby – or passion since 1995 when I got involved in Scotland in the Commemorative events around the last great Jacobite rebellion of 1745-6 in support of "Bonnie Prince Charlie". So started my re-enactors affairs with the House of Stuart. That said I've had sorties betimes as a Saxon Housecarl (household body guard), a mounted Norman soldier; Plantagenet knightly ancestor and Tudor Courtier.

I became 'embroiled' in the Great English Civil War in 2007 with a celebration of the 1647 Putney Debates – as a New Model Army Officer. However like Colonel Edward Massie (my alter Ego) I had generally considered myself a Royalist at heart. Massie had learned his war-craft as an aspiring young Ensign (junior Officer) in the Wars in Flanders and the Low-Countries under such commanders as Prince Rupert of The Palatine.

I moved to Gloucestershire in 2015. I'd met some Gloucester Worthies & Characters and become 'entranced by the City' and started talking to people about reviving a celebration of Gloucester's key role in deciding English History in a "Bloody momentous era".

Now five years on some of those dreams for Gloucester have and are being realised. I had been enthused by my visits to 'The Folk' as was since 2010 and was bereft when I'd heard early in 2018 that it was to close.

Mary de Crypt and gave some 'show and tell' talks and musket / matchlock firing. A highlight for us re-enactors, including friends from Bristol and Wales, was being invited to lead the procession with Master Crier Alan Myatt and Chris King of ECW (Roundhead Association) with the City's Colours.

This year being our third outing on Gloucester Day was a necessarily 'pared-back' version of any previous displays and Great Procession but I was proud to literally 'beat-the-bonds' of the city with 12 people acting as the 1643 Garrison this year. These were made up of six 'volunteers' up from Bristol in the guise of Stafford's Blue coated Regiment and myself in Col. Edward Massie mode plus seven Gloster's Garrison Volunteers (They being young master Alex, Big Jens Meyer, Mike & Andree of Brecon, Deborah – 'Lady Scott', her maid-servant Anna (Anita) and not least worthy "cobbler of Telford" Steve "Huxley" Tamplin). I am pleased to say we have a new recruit, our own Gareth Jayne too! The Musyck, Drums & Fifes in Blue Coats are actually drawn from Bristol City Waites – it's just an apt co-incidence that their livery about matches what we know of Lord Stafford's regiment who provided the core garrison in 1643-5 for Gloucester. Army uniform as such was not generally adopted until after the advent of the Cromwellian New Model Army.

We are entering an exciting new phase and the fledgling Gloster Garrison looks forward to increasing steadily in membership being based around The Folk with its developing English Civil War gallery and display of artefacts.

*Your Most Obedient servant,
Col. Edward Massie*

♦ **BELOW:** The Gloster Garrison forming up in the court-yard at the Folk.



Profile of some Council of Management (COM) members

I thought it might be helpful for new members of the Trust to ask some of the COM members to write a little about themselves and what they contribute to the Trust. There is not space for them all but here are some.



Robin Morris

Our Chairman, Robin, has decided that after over 40 years in office he is ready to retire as a Trustee and Chairman at the Trust's Annual General Meeting in April 2021.

Robin has guided the Trust with a steady hand during his time in office and was in fact a Founder Trustee when Gloucester Civic Trust was established in 1972. He was also instrumental in the formation of Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd back in 1980 and has acted as the GHB Secretary until his impending retirement.

Without Robin's firm but friendly and pragmatic approach to leadership of the Trust so many of the achievements of which we are most proud would not have been possible. It is largely thanks to his guidance that the Trust has flourished and is now a major contributor to the preservation and interpretation of the City's history and heritage. That contribution was recognised a short while ago by the award of MBE and it is Robin's leadership which led in 2013 to the Trust receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Robin has been a very successful solicitor in Gloucester for a great number of years, following a period working with GCHQ. His connections established during his long career have been a great help with many facets of the Trust's work. Despite a recent house move to North Somerset he continues to practice and will be returning to live nearer Gloucester shortly.

I have been privileged to know Robin through our membership of the Rotary Club of Gloucester for over 30 years and have been inspired by him as we have worked together on several City projects over the last 15 years or so. As Chairman of Gloucester Civic Trust he

will be very much missed by many, although he has accepted the post of Honorary Life President. I am sure all members will wish Robin and his wife Pat every happiness.

Martyn White



Martyn White

I have been a member of Gloucester Civic Trust for around 10 years and was elected to the Council of Management in 2012. This followed a 13-year period as a City Councillor, the last seven of which were as the Council's Cabinet Member for Heritage and Leisure. My love of Gloucester's history and its wealth of buildings including, of course, our Cathedral stretches back to my schooldays at the Crypt School when I used to spend hours trying to understand the 2,000 years of history and important heritage of the City.

Since retiring from work and my Council membership I have become actively involved in a number of heritage and other charities in Gloucester including as a trustee of Llanthony Priory since that Trust's formation in 2007. I am a director of Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd and its Chairman since 2014. Latterly my focus has been on the transfer of ownership of the former Folk Museum from the City Council to GHB and then its onward leasing to the Civic Trust. Robin Morris and I have worked closely on the swathe of documents involved with the transfer for, incredibly, over four years and we are now hopefully on the finishing straight.

Our Chairman, Robin, has decided to retire at the next Annual General Meeting in April 2021 and is currently unable to attend our Council of Management meetings which are held through the wonder of Zoom. The Council naturally needs a member to chair its meetings and having been asked to stand as Deputy Chairman in Robin's absence I was elected to the job at the September 2020 meeting. I am honoured that the trustees had faith in me to step into Robin's shoes temporarily and to chair its meetings as we try to come out of the problems caused by the pandemic and successive lockdowns. This position lasts until the AGM after which the Council will elect a new Chairman following Robin's elevation to Honorary Life President.



Sue Smith

I am proud to say that I am Gloucester born and bred, and a member of the Chartered Freeman and Women of Gloucester. I have a background in Management in the NHS and in the Law but am retired now. I am a member of Gloucester Rotary Club and am very happily married to Mike, who takes great photographs of our GCT events.

I joined Gloucester Civic Trust in 2015 and became a member of the Council of Management in April 2016 after I was asked to take on Membership Development. I took over the full role of Membership in April 2018 and became a fully qualified Tour Guide in spring 2019. I am on The Folk Committee, with responsibility for HR and organising the bookings for the Edshed. In addition to that I am on the Communications Team as an admin for our Facebook page. During 2020 I have been the Chairman of Gloucestershire Civic Societies group and more recently I have become Chairman of the GCT Jubilee Committee which is beginning to organise a series of events over a year, starting in September 2022, to celebrate 50 years of Gloucester Civic Trust.



Hugh Worsnip

I am the retired chief reporter of the Citizen & Gloucester Journal when it was a thriving evening newspaper. My specialty over

The remembrance Day recording is on the DeCrypt Youtube channel here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaZBEW_kxcs. We will be back in St Mary de Crypt to record a play for them on the 14th of December. This will be a different challenge in itself and I am looking forward to it. I loved the collaboration with Jess and I hope we can do much more of this in the future with her and with other Gloucester heritage sites.

The next event was railway day (reported in the events article) which was live streamed on Facebook and Youtube, I handled it all from my spare room at home (as we were locked down), which looked like a mini TV studio for a few hours.

We have also recorded a talk about Charles Wheatstone by John Jones which was also excellent. Each recording we do is slightly better than the last.



This all leads me nicely on to our plan for the future. We really want to create a catalogue of videos like this over the coming months and years. The Civic Trust membership has a huge wealth of knowledge about local history, buildings, events and people and I hope that I can encourage them (and you) to let us record this knowledge in the form of high quality videos. I think it can be a wonderful resource

for Trust members and the wider community. We can have fun making them too.

We also have plans to have regular live streams of music, poetry, art, drama and anything else we can think of from the top room of the Folk. It's a lovely room and makes a very nice recording studio.

If you have any ideas for films of talks, music or anything else, and you want us to come and record it for you, please do let me know and I'd be very happy to get involved.

Editors note – what Gareth does not mention here is that what makes all his live streaming possible is the internet system he has installed into the Folk. We had the basic building block of a super-fast fibre connection but the router, network in the building, wifi units and so on were all installed by Gareth assisted by Marc. This also includes setting up the EdShed so that it can be used for Co-working.

Efficient Financial Reporting

by Richard Crowhurst, Treasurer



It's now over a year since my appointment as Treasurer. A time to reflect on how it's been going.

The most significant improvement is the introduction of regular financial reporting to the Council of Management. The Council meets six times a year and I provide reports to three of its meetings in:

- ♦ **May** – covering the early season to the end of April, including Easter.
- ♦ **September** – reviewing the first 8 months of the year, to understand how we've done over the summer.
- ♦ **January** – providing the first indication of the full year accounts.

The reports include a breakdown showing the financial performance of our three main operational areas: The Tower, The Folk, and the Tour Guides; together with Central funds. I'm able to do this using Xero, which is our newly adopted cloud-based accounting software.

Data is fed in automatically on an overnight basis from our main bank account into Xero. This makes it easy to reconcile transactions, without waiting for monthly statements. In particular it's made the administration of membership subscriptions easier. Previously we had to wait for the monthly paper bank statement before we could check the latest subscription

payments. Now we can see payments in the accounting system on the day after they've cleared.

What's next? Two things are being investigated. We are planning a trial of a direct debit system for membership subscriptions. If successful, we will encourage members to pay via direct debit, to help reduce the administrative burden. We are also considering updating our cash till at Jemmy's Café in The Folk with touch screen technology.

All of this is making the management of our finances more efficient.



Sue Smith, our membership secretary wearing her Freewoman of the City of Gloucester robes, Ivan Taylor looking resplendent in his Four Gates cape (Gloucester's capped crusader perhaps!) and Nicolette Hamilton, Manager of The Folk. Pictured on Apple Day at The Folk.

We are pleased to be partnered with the Four gates of Gloucester which is a voluntary, not for profit Social Enterprise company, which seeks to improve the communication and information around Gloucester City Centre for residents and visitors. Their Events calendar shows what's on in Gloucester and you can add your own events free of charge. They also have a free mobile phone App so you can access information about the City at all times. <https://fourgatesofgloucester.co.uk/>



♦ Photo by Mike Smith.

Wheelwrights area Robert Scott discovered many interesting items which we have asked to remain on site for display. We have display cases to use and explanatory panels are being designed.

Gloucester Rugby Club Heritage – we are working with this group to bring a display to the Folk. We have identified where it will go and have display cases available.

Video Streaming/online presence – Lead Gareth & Marc – this is an exciting area which Gareth's technical expertise has opened up for us. We live-streamed a book launch which was viewed by people in Canada, America and Argentina among other places. We have

also recorded and broadcast talks at the History festival, Heritage Open Days and others. The challenge is how we can make money from it!

Co-working – lead Gareth – basically this means that people can rent office space and facilities for short periods in an area with shared facilities. This is an area smaller businesses may go rather than renting premises. This would enable them to work from home hiring office facilities (and a meeting room) only when required. We will have two areas, one utilising a meeting room and one in the main building. It is anticipated that the café would be able to generate some income from these rentals.

Donations – Donations will be a key income stream for us like it is for many cultural venues. We know from other organisations that people will donate generously if they enjoy their visit, particularly if they have free entry. As well as donation boxes we will soon have tap and go donation devices. We will be explaining how much it costs to keep our premises open near each donation location so that people appreciate why their donation is important.

Longer term we eagerly await Simon Cartridge's report and will be looking to develop the facilities with the aid of Grants.

41 years was local politics, planning and development. It helped that my dad was the chief planning officer for the Cotswolds and I had the importance of good design drummed into me from an early age.

Now I am a trained city guide and member of the Trust's Council of Management and chairman of the Planning Appraisal Panel, which also comprises local architects in private practice. We comment on all planning applications concerning listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled ancient monuments, plus significant development elsewhere in the city. The panel is an official consultee of the City Planning Committee. Usually councillors agree with us, but sometimes they don't.



Gareth Jayne

I was born in Gloucester and my family have lived here and the surrounding area for many generations. I have always had a keen interest in local history and have been a Trust member for a number of years. In my limited spare time, I also enjoy boating, photography and salsa dancing. I'm a director of a software company and I joined The Folk committee last year to help with the technological aspects of the project. I am also actively involved in the organising and running of events at The Folk. I recently joined the Council of Management so that I could bring my IT skills to the whole trust, helping to guide it into the digital era and all of the opportunities that brings.

of Dean. I have lived in Gloucester since 2002 and have worked in Gloucester and the surrounding area since 1996. I live with my Wife Sandra and my two sons Alex (15) and Theo (8). I have a love of history particularly the hidden history, but also enjoy comedy and reading Jack Reacher books. I am the lead person for organising and running events at The Folk and also work alongside Gareth to develop and expand our digital media programme both within the Trust but also with partner organisations in the Gloucester Heritage Forum and Gloucestershire Civic Societies.

I have been with the Civic Trust for three years and am a member of The Folk Committee with a particular emphasis on events and the retail element of the project.



Jason Smith

Jason is a Freeman of the City of Gloucester and can trace his family back over 450 years in the city, many of them living on Westgate. He led on delivery of the Civil War, Aethelflaed and Henry III re-enactments in the City and has a deep passion for the City and history. He has a professional background in Marketing and Fundraising from the public and private sector.



Marc Waters

I was born in Worcester but lived most of my childhood in Cinderford in the Forrest



Alex Bailey

I am an Engineer and moved to Gloucester with my work in 2000. I live in an old Chartist Bungalow at Snig's End (now Staunton Corse) and have always been interested in History and genealogy. I used to sail a dinghy and was a keen trekker but now I cycle for exercise and pursue "Country" interests such as growing local varieties of apple, pressing juice and making cider.

I retired as an engineer in 2002, joined the Trust shortly afterwards and trained as a guide. Once qualified I organised the Heritage Open Days for 5 years during which time I introduced music to the venues for the first time and moved Gloucester into the top five Cities nationally for the number of venues open. I took over as Newsletter Editor in 2014 and for the last 18 months have led The Folk of Gloucester operations team.

Heritage Open Days 11th to 14th September

This year marked the 25th year of HOD in Gloucester. Despite the coronavirus pandemic which has prevented the Gloucester History Festival holding the usual Blackfriars Talks, the Civic Trust decided to go ahead with Heritage Open Days albeit in a more limited way than usual. Time for preparation following the limited relaxation of lockdown was limited to a few short weeks. This involved producing our own brochure which we sent out on line with only a limited number of paper copies available. We also set up our own booking

system which was a big job involving around 600 events. Nevertheless we were able to arrange 18 different guided walks but more of them as the number at each outing was limited to 5. Not so many venues were open to the public but a new location was the Sula Lightship which proved very popular. An exhibition of Gloucester blue plaque photos was set up in St Nicholas Church and six talks were given by Civic Trust Guides in the Folk's Ed Shed. The only music event was our old friends Bygonz who played in the streets.

I am now compiling statistics and will produce a full report in due course.

As usual our thanks go to all those Civic Trust Guides and Members who rallied round to volunteer their services.

*Paul Drinkwater
HOD co-ordinator
and the team of Maggie Goodchild,
Emily Knight, Helena Taylor
and Jennifer Walker*



Bringing the Digital Revolution to the Civic Trust Gareth Jayne



When I joined The Folk committee at the beginning of the year I had no idea what a strange year it was going to be. We had planned to open the building for many events this year but the virus and the resulting restrictions meant that we had to cancel them all.

This got us thinking about what we could do instead and the idea of using the building for videos and live-streaming was born, led by me and fellow trustee Marc Waters. This also tied in nicely with the plans that the History Festival had for making this year's event "virtual".

The first talk to be recorded and live streamed was of Jon Eeles presenting his knowledge of the Siege of Gloucester, on Gloucester Day for the History Festival. We only had very basic equipment including just a webcam for the video and this proved to be totally inadequate. Fortunately the festival organisers had sent a professional photographer to record the event and this is still available on the History Festival Video channel.

Earlier that day I met Candia McKormack, lead singer of Goth Rock band Inkubus Sukkubus and deputy editor of Cotswold Life Magazine. She used to work at The Folk and loves the place as much as we all do. She asked me if we would be willing to host an online launch of the book and CD, "Tales of Witchcraft and Wonder", which she and her husband had written. We agreed and offered to handle the technical side for them. This conversation happened several hours before the Siege talk went wrong so I had no idea at that point what I'd let myself in for.

This started me on a journey of research about how it should've been done and what equipment we needed. I read many articles on the subject - what microphones to use, how to set up lighting, what the best cameras are, how to live-stream events and what software is needed for video editing. I also consulted a chap I had been watching on Youtube, who used to work for ITV. His advice was invaluable for creating an equipment list.

Armed with all of this information, I approached The Folk committee and asked for the

money to pay for it all. Thankfully they agreed and I ordered the equipment.

RIGHT: Candia McKormack and her group performing for the live streaming.

I spent a huge amount of time learning how to use the equipment, practicing the mixing of video, testing and experimenting during the lead up to the event. We went live with it at 7pm on 24th October from the top room of The Folk (the old WWII room) and it was a huge success. It was streamed on Facebook to an audience of over 500 with people viewing from all over the world. It's available on the Folk Youtube channel here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0bh2INpV0>. Candia and Tony were very pleased with it all and I hope we can do another one with them when normality starts to return next year.

A week or two later, during a meeting with the Gloucester Heritage Forum, Jessica Gordon of Discover DeCrypt mentioned that she wanted to record some videos but they had no equipment. Riding the high from Candia's event, I volunteered our services to help her out. In a subsequent



conversation, she asked if we could go along on Sunday 8th November and record a couple of "Godly Play" videos for her. I happily agreed and, without the pressure of having to do it all live, had great fun making the recordings. We made two recordings, one for Remembrance Day and one for Christmas (which will be available on the Discover DeCrypt Youtube channel in the coming weeks).



"Our People, Our History, Our Community"

Bishop Hooper House and the Folk of Gloucester

Progress Report and Plans for the Future - Alex Bailey



♦ Pat Boseley decided to site our Civic Trust Table outside for Gloucester Day and was assisted by Debbie Vass. Andy Frape can be seen in the window where he showed his Civil War items collection.

What has transpired leading up to the acquisition of Bishop Hooper House?

As we are close to Bishop Hooper House being owned by Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd. (who will lease the building to the Civic Trust to continue operating it as The Folk of Gloucester) it is worthwhile to summarise how we have reached where we are and our plans for the future. This is a long explanation but I think it is important that Trust members fully understand why we are where we are.

It has been over four years since discussions first started with the Council for **Gloucester Historic Building (GHB)** to take over the former Folk Museum buildings. It has been over two years since **Gloucester Civic Trust (GCT)** ran its first event in the building (Apple Day 2018) and a year since we signed a License to operate the building. We believe that the formal exchange of legal documents is imminent. I certainly hope so!

This being the case the membership needs to understand what we are taking on and why.

The Building will be owned by **Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd (GHB)**, a buildings preservation trust run in equal partnership by Gloucester Civic Trust and Gloucester City Council with the aim of identifying and reviewing historic buildings or monuments which may be in need of help.

The company was set up after the sale of Ladybellegate House, which the Trust restored in 1978. Proceeds from the sale were placed into the Gloucester Historic Buildings fund which has supported many heritage projects in the city. Among the many buildings that GHB has rescued in the City is our near neighbour the public house, Dick Whittington's at 100 Westgate. It was built in the 13th century and known as Saint Nicholas House, possibly for the family of Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London. The building is grade I listed with Historic England. Once rescued this building was restored to private ownership. This is the model that GHB has used since the first building was rescued; buy the property, restore it and return it to beneficial ownership.

This is a key point as, although we are planning for success, should the whole

venture by the Civic Trust fail it will be GHB and not GCT who will have to deal with the building.

It is worth reviewing just why GHB are taking over ownership of the Building. The Folk Museum was established in 1935 in Gloucester by the City Council. It was one of the first such Museums in the Country and in effect saved this magnificent building for the future. In the 1960's the Council bought more land at the back of the Tudor building and added new buildings designed to fit in with the old building. They also restored what is now the Cider House. In 2012 using Heritage Lottery fund money the EdShed was added among other changes designed to increase visitors. Unfortunately in 2018 the Council decided that they could not afford to continue to run the Museum and it should close. The cost of running the Museum was high because as well as the paid staff the collection on display (and stored) had to be kept at a reasonable temperature with the Building being described by some as a "leaky sieve"!

GHB exists to save buildings like this one and, I am sure you will agree, especially this one! Many people in the City love this building and have fond memories of it from when they were growing up. It has been a part of the life of the City for more than 500 years and has many stories to be told. The next step was to decide just what to do with it. Enter GCT!

GCT has experience of delivering a project in the City, St Michaels Tower, which we now run without monetary support from the Trust thanks to the way the project was developed. It is now managed by a dedicated Team led by Carole Carpenter. The Folk is a much, much bigger challenge but our aim is the same, at the end of the day it has to be self-financing.

A further complication is that the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** still have an interest in the Building and it cannot be transferred to anyone without their approval. A small team led by Martyn White produced a business plan which satisfied the HLF that we can run the building. The Council still have a responsibility to run school experience sessions in the Victorian Schoolroom. At some stage we may well take this over if it can be managed cost effectively.

The bottom line is that a building of this type is both an asset and a liability (in terms of running and maintenance costs). A major

difference with similar deals of this type is that it includes the state of the art EdShed with two modern meeting rooms which can be hired out. The cost of the transfer is £1. Because the Council still have a large part of their collection stored in the buildings they will pay for the insurance of the buildings for a period of five years.

As the building will be owned by a charity we will be able to apply for grant funding and GHB has already secured funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund which has been used to engage a Heritage architect, Simon Cartledge, to carry out an examination of the structure to determine any required repairs and alterations. This examination is close to completion and a report is expected soon.

What are the plans for the operation of The Folk of Gloucester?

To be viable the operation has to be self-financing. The team set up by the Trust and led by myself are treating the Folk of Gloucester as a business venture. Like all new ventures it will take some time before we reach a point where we are self-financing and in the meantime the Council of Management have approved our business plan and we will supported with reserves from both GHB and GCT. The commitment of the Trust has been demonstrated by their approval of our employment of a professional Manager, Nicolette Hamilton. We are also fortunate to have a team with experience, ability and drive in the key areas needed to make the project a success.

The Folk committee's first meeting was held in a side room of the Robert Raikes Pub on the 11th April last year. Five of the current team were present -Marc Waters, Richard Crowhurst, Sue Smith, Emily Knight, and myself. We have since been strengthened by the addition of Gareth Jayne and Sally Campbell. The first major thing agreed at that meeting was the name, the Folk of Gloucester.

A lot of work went into recruiting a Manager and we were guided in this work by Sue Smith who has extensive HR experience. Nicolette has guided us in developing a Mission Statement and a list of aims and objectives which is still ongoing.

The strapline for the project which will appear under our logo is,

**"Our People,
Our History,
Our Community"**

Our intended use of the building remains unchanged. We obviously need to preserve the building and hopefully, with grant money, expand and develop its use. Many people with various trades have occupied the building and we want to tell their story as well as the story of the building itself. One item not mentioned in the activity areas below is our intention to become an accredited Museum. This will allow us to house visiting exhibitions and also to build on the collection of items we already have.

The plan by activity area

One member of our team is involved in all these listed below and that is Richard Crowhurst. To be a successful business we need to manage the finances and Richard brings considerable expertise in this area. He has already discovered significant sums of money due to us of which we were not previously aware.



♦ Photo by Mike Smith from this year's Apple Day.

Events – lead Marc Waters –There are two major events held each year at the Folk, Apple Day and The Cotton Motorcycle Rally/AGM. Pre pandemic in 2019 these were a significant success. Both events being well attended and bolstering the reputation of the Civic Trust who had started to run The Folk of Gloucester. They were a modest financial success with considerable scope to increase income in the future. With each event we learn more and at this year's Apple Day we introduced some children's activities which were well received. The plan is to host a variety of events which not only educate and entertain but also encourage frequent visits to The Folk. Working with our partners we will be introducing Trade days where local experts such as wheelwrights and stone carvers can demonstrate their skills.

We will also be hosting more evenings during the year dedicated to storytelling and poetry. With all these activities we aim to help ensure The Folk is Self-financing through event income and café/retail sales.

Community Activities – lead Nicolette Hamilton – there is a strong community in lower Westgate and we intend to be the hub

of this area as well as reaching out to other Gloucester wide groups. Games groups, mother and toddler, knitting group and so on are all possibilities. An income would come from a modest charge and sales in the café.

EdShed hire of rooms – lead Sue Smith –this activity was building nicely before the pandemic and was to be our main source of income. It has, at the moment, virtually disappeared. However Gareth Jayne has brought his IT skills to bear and we had a recent hire of the rooms where we provided cameras, sound and fast internet for a group Zoom meeting. We are also looking at using one of the rooms as a co-working space. We expect some recovery here but not to the levels that were originally in the plan.



♦ Our Manager Nicolette Hamilton, Pippa Zadeh and Sally Campbell with our youngest helper, Alex Waters.

Café – lead Sally Campbell – we have started the process of equipping the café/kitchen to a proper commercial level, including a new commercial level oven and a bean to cup coffee machine. We may well accelerate the development of the café to bring in more income.

Exhibitions – lead all team – As well as the exhibits left by the City Museum we plan to have the following ready to open in the Spring/summer. These are all additional to what was offered when the premises closed as the Gloucester Life Museum.

Wheelwrights/Cobblers workshop – the City Museum have removed the stored items and catalogued remaining items. It has been handed over to us and is ready to open to the public. The courtyard at the entry needs clearing but this is in hand. The City Museum will then catalogue the items around this courtyard and we plan to repair the roof over them to open up another area.

Cider House – will be open at all times with some explanatory panels and possibly a video explaining cider making.

Siege of Gloucester Display – this is now back on track. Earlier in the year whilst the items were being catalogued in the