

# Volunteer Photographs

some taken by Mike Smith, some by Alex Bailey



♦ **LEFT:** Sue Smith taking some members of the Council of Management on a tour on the 29<sup>th</sup> May.

♦ **BELOW:** John Jones repairing a door post.

♦ **LEFT:** Volunteers enjoying a celebration to mark the completion of the Café make-over.

♦ **BELOW:** Cobbler is Alan MacDonald being filmed in the Cobblers workshop by Gareth for one of our display videos. He is a master cobbler and third generation of cobblers with both his father and grandfather having these skills, which have been handed down to Alan. He has a shop in Bishops Cleeve where he repairs all sorts of leather items, not just boots and shoes.

♦ **LEFT:** Rob Scott (aka Col Massey) sanding the benches down.



# Civic Trust News

Gloucester Civic Trust Ltd  
Reg. Charity No. 264719

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## New member Simon Davis

aka John Sandford, the Mayor of Gloucester in 1551



Simon is a leading actor at The Kings Theatre in Gloucester and played the part of John Sandford in our welcome video to The Folk which was shot by Gareth. John Sandford owned many houses in Westgate Street, including Bishop Hooper House running a very successful woollen clothing business from the building. In those days, of course, all the clothes were made by hand on the first floor where there was good light from the wide windows. The shop was on the ground floor.

The main themes in this issue of the Newsletter are volunteering and, naturally, The Folk. For a long time now we have had very many volunteers working in St Michael's Tower, as Guides, stewarding at the History Festival and Heritage Open Days. There are many other situations in which we are active as you will see when you read the article on the Council of Management.

The production of the video of John Sandford is another example of work being undertaken by our volunteers. Sue Smith, who is active in many areas, did some research into some of the people who have lived in Bishop Hooper House and wrote the script for Simon to use in his welcome speech. To progress this work we need a group to continue this research and uncover the lives of those who have lived and worked in the building.

Sue, as a Guide, has also produced a guided tour of the Building which she is "honing" before training others to deliver the tours. It is generally accepted that tours led by a guide are the best way to experience a heritage attraction like The Folk (and the City!).

Alex Bailey



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

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# Review of the Folk of Gloucester

June 2021 - Alex Bailey



April this year was the second anniversary of our very first meeting of what would become The Folk of Gloucester Committee. We held the meeting in the Robert Raikes Pub, starting as we meant to go on by spending as little money as possible! Of the current team members Emily, Sue, Marc, Richard and I were present. Having decided who would do what the next decision was naming the project.

Major milestones involved taking a license to operate the building, recruiting a Manager, beginning to let out the EdShed and staging some events. I organised the first event which we ran in the building in the year previous to the team being set up, Apple Day 2018. Marc followed this up with easily our most successful event so far, Apple Day 2019 with 550 people attending.

The pandemic could have derailed us but the time has been spent improving the building and preparing for when we open. This work has been led by Gareth, Sally and Marc whilst Sue, Richard and Emily have been busy putting the very necessary management systems in place.

If we fast forward to the last six months we have now started to lay plans for the development of the The Folk which can only take place by securing grant funding.

Two major grants were secured by Martyn from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), totalling £27,500, which enabled us to engage an Architect and look at the feasibility of the work we are planning. A report has been produced which shows that the building is basically sound providing scope to develop it as we envisage. Some monies remain and we hope to spend these on providing a covered side entrance for the disabled and sorting out the courtyard in front of the Café.

We have received funding from the Cathedral quarter HSHAZ to fund a 3D laser scan of the building which, as well as providing a tremendous 3D image, can be used by the Architect to produce working drawings. The 3D image of the building can be seen with a link on the Civic Trust website.

HSHAZ funding has also paid for the engagement of a company to provide us with a Development report which will guide future planning. This report will be delivered in mid July. Total funding from the HSHAZ so far is £22,000.

At the end of April we applied for our next major grant, a development grant with the AHF for a total of £78,862. We will know in three months' time if this is successful. We have had very positive feedback from both the AHF and English Heritage (who fund the HSHAZ) suggesting our project is one that both their funds are aimed at. In essence we have a grade 2\* listed building on a High Street with great potential. This money will mostly fund the engagement of more specialists to write reports and produce some

drawings, a necessary stage if we are to secure the next AHF grant, a Transformation Grant which can be up to £350,000. Following this will be an application to the NHLF for actually transforming the building.

We have also secured a grant of £25,558 from Entrust to spend on equipping the Café. We are now at a stage where we need to plan a "route map" for the future of the Folk and we have engaged a very experienced Company called Bowles Green who have worked on many projects across the Country (The Elgar Birthplace Museum near Worcester for example) to produce a development plan for us. A major part of this plan is the testing of our ideas for the future and producing an achievable practical plan. Much consultation and discussion has taken place and their report is due in the middle of July. This plan will map out the work needed to turn The Folk into a viable operation which dovetails with the other work taking place in the City, the Cathedral Quarter High Street Heritage Zone, the City Museum and the other Heritage sites within the City. The City does have a clear vision of the future now and we intend to be a key part of it.



In the meantime over the next couple of years we will see very little physical change at The Folk and the challenge we have is to generate an income from what we have now so that we are still around to benefit from some major grant funding! We have seen some signs of life in EdShed bookings and Marc is busy arranging events. The Café has had a make-over thanks to Sally with her team of volunteers and we need it to generate a good income for us. Gareth has been busy recording videos which will help bring the displays we have to life and Nicolette is busy engaging the local community. However to be successful we will need many volunteers and Nicolette has been busy making sure that we provide proper support, direction and training for anyone who does want to join in the fun.

On a personal level I have decided that the time is right for me to step back from the direct involvement in the day to day operation at The Folk and concentrate on the more strategic matters, grant applications and their management. When I joined the Trust 18 years ago and got involved in organising Heritage Open Days I was full of the energy, drive and passion for the City that I see in the Folk Committee now. It's time to "pass the baton" and Gareth will be leading the team from now on.

## Transfer of Ownership

The documents regarding the transfer of ownership and use of the Folk to GHB and GCT respectively have now been signed by Martyn White (on behalf of both bodies) and by Alex Bailey for GHB and John Lovell for GCT. The documents would now go to the city's solicitor who will sign on behalf of the council and a completion date agreed.

♦ **LEFT:** Steve Green and Judith Bowles when they visited The Folk for an initial look around.

**BELOW:** Martyn White, Alex Bailey and John Lovell preparing to sign a "stack" of documents on the 20<sup>th</sup> May.



# Membership Report

by Sue Smith



I am very pleased to report that Marlene Kerton and I welcomed 4 new members to our Membership and Administration Team. Rosie Clifford, Robert Phelps, Debs Harwood and Val O'Connor. We all met together for the first time in the Edshed with doors open wide, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Training has begun on all aspects of Membership and we hope they will enjoy working with us.

Since the last newsletter November 2020 we have recruited 34 new members. All these are listed in this Newsletter and we welcome them and hope they have enjoyed the Zoom meetings we have arranged during this time.

During the Winter neither the Tower nor The Folk have been open due mainly to Covid restrictions so we have had little opportunity to attract new members. However, we now have an online application form, thanks to Helena Taylor, so although we have lost some members who have not renewed subscriptions for various reasons, our numbers are 623, only 17 less than in my last Report. 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](http://www.gloucestercivictrust.org) and complete our new online application form.

**Social events** - Our annual visit to Highnam Court is going ahead in June with a greatly reduced number than normal but the planned visit to Reading has been cancelled again because of Covid restrictions. We are organising our usual Annual free Guided Tour around Gloucester in July, which are aimed

at new members, although anyone can join in if they haven't 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 may have to restrict numbers for Covid Reasons, so to compensate we will probably organise two different dates. We are also hoping to hold our usual new Members evening in November if Covid restrictions allow.

**Mailshots - News Updates** - During the lockdown period we have tried to keep in touch with members through our regular mailshots "News Updates". However, we are aware that we still have about 40 members on our database with no email address recorded. 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](mailto:members@gloucestercivictrust.org), and I will add/amend our database.

**Meetings with speakers** - In order to keep in touch with members I have arranged Zoom meetings during lockdown with the great help of Gareth Jayne. We have had 7 speakers so far with an average of 100 members watching. These have all been recorded by Gareth and added to our website by Helena Taylor so if you missed one you can still watch it. More than 1,500 people have watched them since they have become available online.

## Jubilee Celebrations Report

by Sue Smith

We have held 5 meetings so far and are planning a number of activities over the course of a whole year of celebrations. For instance, there will be a Celebration Dinner in October 2022 in St Mary De Crypt, to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> Year. There will also be a Parade through the streets, an informal lunch in the Summer and many more different events which will raise our profile in the city, using both The Tower and The Folk as venues. We have representatives from all the different sections of the Trust on the team and are working together on a variety of events to ensure our Celebrations have a wide appeal, not only to our members, but also to the wider community.

## New Members

We welcome 34 new members since last November,

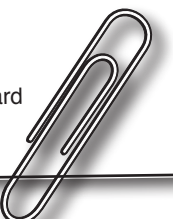
- ♦ Zita & Anthony Aldridge
- ♦ Kate & Nick Beevers
- ♦ Carol & Frank Bowe
- ♦ Helen Brown, Tom Clarke
- ♦ Joy & Simon Davis
- ♦ Susan Flook
- ♦ Amelia, Georgia, Rianna & Catarina Godwin
- ♦ Gabrielle & Neil Hampson
- ♦ Deborah & Andrew Harwood
- ♦ Sara Hobbs
- ♦ Paul James
- ♦ Pauline Mitchell
- ♦ Theo, Christopher, Jack & Deanna Neuschwander
- ♦ Christine Reynolds
- ♦ Michael Smith
- ♦ Carole Snuggs
- ♦ Theresa Vincent
- ♦ Charlotte Walford
- ♦ Susan & Andy Woodward

## Membership and Administration Team



Sue Smith is shown with the members of the Membership and Admin Team when they last met in the lower EdShed (with the doors to the Courtyard fully open of course).

left to right Sue Smith, Rosie Clifford, Val O'Connor, Debs Harwood, Robert Phelps, Marlene Kerton.





# Civic Trust Digital Update

Gareth Jayne & Marc Waters



The Civic Trust video cameras have been quite busy since the last newsletter, making videos for the Folk, the Spring History Festival and various collaborations with the City Council, the City Museum, the Cathedral Quarter project and Gloucester BID.

It started back in February when Gareth was asked if he would be interested in hosting an "online" Folk Trail. This event traditionally encourages people to tour the city centre, visiting numerous venues to listen to music (and maybe have a drink or two). Lockdown prevented the organisers from doing this so an online version was born.

The event ran for a whole weekend, 10 hours on Saturday and 8 on Sunday. Some of the content was pre-recorded and some was live, including numerous acts, an online Morris dancing lesson and some poetry. It was streamed to both YouTube and Facebook and was a huge success.



♦ Gareth films Town Cryer Alan Myatt outside the Old Crown pub, for the Cathedral Quarter Reminiscence project.

For Gareth's part, he sat here in his little office, with a makeshift TV studio and a streaming device and controlled it all by hand. Great fun but a good leg stretch was needed by the end of it all.

The next project was a series of videos of our Town Cryer, Alan Myatt and trustee Sue Smith for the Cathedral Quarter project. These were made to promote their Reminiscence project. Sue talked about the real history of the Tailor of Gloucester, while Alan spoke about the work he did in Lower Westgate when he was a manual worker. He had worked at the Dick Whittington pub and was there when they uncovered some Roman stones. Filming Alan is always great fun, the hardest part, from a technical point of view, is stopping the sound clipping because his voice is so loud!



♦ ABOVE: Andrew Armstrong talking about Margaret of Anjou at the City Museum, for a Spring History Festival film.

♦ LEFT: Filming City Tour Guide Paul Drinkwater in St Mary's Square for the History Festival HOD promotion video.



♦ City archaeologist Andrew Armstrong being filmed at the King's Square development for an update on the Roman finds.

Around the same time as this, Marc approached our city archaeologist, Andrew Armstrong, to ask if we could make a short film to update everyone on the Roman finds in the King's Square development. Andrew agreed, so Marc and I donned hardhats and hi-viz and ventured into the development to make the video. Andrew is well used to being in front of a camera, so filming him is a breeze. This video is currently our most viewed on Youtube with well over 1000 views.



He was so impressed with the video that he approached us and asked if we would be willing to make a film for the Spring History Festival, about Margaret of Anjou, in conjunction with the City Museum.

It turned out to be the hardest film we'd made so far. Starting at 8am on a chilly Saturday morning, at the bottom of Southgate Street, we filmed Andy across four locations (Southgate Street, the Furniture shop there, the museum and the Archives), multiple takes and the sequences of the shots were all out of order.



♦ Building conservationist Jake Etherton explaining the works currently going on at St Oswalds Priory.

This meant for a very long editing process. When editing videos, it generally takes about an hour for every 10 minutes of video. Andrew's video was more like 3 hours for every 10 minutes!

Still, we were very pleased with the result and it was the most viewed video in the festival.

The most recent film we made was at St Oswalds. An interview with the conservation builders who are working there now, an explanation of their processes and an introduction to this by city Conservation Officer, Kate Biggs. Considering that most of this was filmed up on scaffolding with wobbly boards, and was all done in one take, very quickly, we're really pleased with the results.

While all of this was going on, we made numerous films at the Folk, some of which will be played on screens inside the buildings. I won't say too much about them because I want you all to come and see them for yourself but I will say that they involved an actor dressed in Mayoral robes and a traditional cobbler.

We have many more plans for future videos and collaboration with other City organisations, so watch out for them and if any of YOU have ideas for films and you want us to make them for you, give us a shout.

Pictures by Mike Smith Photography and Marc Waters

# There's So Much going on at The Folk of Gloucester

by Marc Waters



After many months of lockdown and activity behind the scenes to get ready we are now coming in to Summer and have the chance to welcome people to The Folk of Gloucester.

Over the next 7 months we have a whole range of activities with something for everyone.

A first for Gloucester will be the Festival of Archaeology which is a national event celebrating Archaeology and local places, we will be hosting loads of activities on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

Come along and see finds from the Romans to the present day with Andy Frape, we will have all four of the local archaeology companies displaying what they have been up to and giving talks on the amazing things they have found. We will also have Andrew Armstrong along to answer your questions and give an insight in to the work of the City Archaeologist.

Now his Sing! workshops bring this concept to a choir which anyone can join.

Folk Life comes to The Folk on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July with the Folk Festival. We will be having Morris dancers performing, Folk groups singing and Fantastic story telling with Chloe from the Midnight story tellers and so much more beside, Come along and See the Folk back to life and full of colour!

August comes Roaring to the Folk with the Cotton Rally on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, This is the annual celebration of Cotton Motorcycles which were made just down the road. See the largest collection of Cottons in the country with examples from the whole 70 years of production all in one place.



♦ ABOVE: Roger Jackson conducting a choir.

♦ BELOW: The annual celebration of Cotton Motorcycles.



♦ ABOVE: Andy Frape showing some of his finds to Rob Scott (aka Col Massey) and our MP Richard Graham last year.

You will not be able to miss the event as there will be 3D art through out the city celebrating our hidden treasures.

If Archaeology doesn't take your fancy, the Folk will be coming alive with the sound of music on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July with Gloucester Big Sing.

This will be a chance for anybody who loves singing or is part of a choir to fine tune their skills with Roger Jackson. Roger Jackson is a choir leader and composer whose work ranges from rock music to commercials to operatic dramas and animation.

He even ran his own music festival in the village of Bishopstone where he started the idea of the instant choir - one hour to learn and perform a song in harmony.



♦ ABOVE: Robin and Des will be performing at the Folk Festival.

Most Events held at the folk are free to Enter and enjoy for further information please see our social media channels or the website.



# The Council of Management (COM)

I thought that it would be helpful to the membership to elaborate a little on the working of its governing body. This governing body has a mixture of people with different experience and skills that they bring to the management of the Trust. Some are long standing like Phil Moss, who is the acknowledged expert on the history of the City, and has been a member since the formation of the trust (see his profile below). Some of the members are relatively new and they bring fresh ideas and energy. The COM is always open to new members and if you feel that you have something you could add then please, in the first instance, contact Martyn. Below is a list of who does what,

## Members and areas of responsibility

### Officers

Honorary Life President	Robin Morris MBE
Trust Chairman	Martyn White also Chairman GHB
Deputy Chairman	David Champion also Secretary GHB
Secretary	John Lovell also Finance Sub-Committee
Treasurer	Richard Crowhurst also Folk of Gloucester Committee & GHB Director

### Committee Chairs/Leads

Alex Bailey	Editor of Newsletter, Folk of Gloucester (Grants Application & delivery) also GHB Director
Carole Carpenter	St Michael's Tower
David Champion	Street Survey Group, Finance Sub-Committee & City liaison also GHB Director
Emily Gibbon	Marketing & Folk of Gloucester Committee also GHB Director
Ian Hollingsbee	Health and Safety also GHB Director
Gareth Jayne	Folk of Gloucester Committee Lead & IT lead
Colin Nyland	Tour Guides & Gloucester Heritage Forum
Sue Smith	Membership, Cathedral Quarter & Folk of Gloucester Committee
Hugh Worsnip	Planning Appraisal and Press Officer

### Other CoM Directors Primary role

Jim Dillon	Gloucester Heritage Forum and Gloucester Marketing Board
Ian Hatton	Finance Sub-committee also GHB Director
Phil Moss	Historian, Liaison with City Projects Schemes/Tour Guides & GHB Director
Yolanda (Poppie) Russo	St Michael's Tower
Jason Smith	Marketing Support
Marc Waters	Folk of Gloucester Committee

In the last Newsletter were profiles of some of the COM members and below are a further three.



Phil Moss

of chairman for a number of years. I was the Trust's organiser of the first Gloucester Heritage Open Days in 1995, and arranged for Blackfriars Priory to be opened to the general public for the first time. The annual HODS event has expanded enormously over the years under the dedicated stewardship of other members of the Trust.

I am also a director of Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd and a trustee of the Gloucester History Festival Trust.



Carol Carpenter

I am Gloucester born and always lived in the centre of the city.

I became a member of the Civic Trust in 2006 at the recommendation of my good friend and neighbour Marilyn Champion. Around that time Marilyn had a vision to restore the neglected St Michaels Tower, so I joined the very first meeting of her Project Team in October 2006 and have been there ever since!!

On Marilyn's untimely death in 2014, I wanted to carry on running the Tower the way she would have wanted, now in 2021, I have a hard working 'committee' of 8 people and we hope we are doing a satisfactory job in keeping the Tower alive.

My whole 'working life' has been in Admin, starting as a Telex Operator at Walls Ice Cream, where I stayed for 24 years in various offices. After knowing everything you could possibly know about ice cream, I moved on to the Bank of England when they moved some of their departments to Gloucester. Later, before retiring, I worked for the NHS in various clerical areas.

My leisure time has been spent travelling the world (on holidays) and officiating on the poolside of Gloucester City and Gloucester Masters Swimming clubs, both of which I am a life member.



Ian Hollingsbee Esq. JP MA

I was bought up in Victoria Australia and originally came to Gloucester for a 2-year working holiday back in 1972. Working in Mental Health and Adolescent psychiatry I retired as a Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Gerontology at the University of the West of England. I have been a member of the Civic Trust for well over 30 years and on the C.O.M. for about 25 years.

My love of local history has led to two published books, Gloucesters Asylums and Inside the Wire, the prisoner of war camps and hostels of Gloucestershire 1939 – 1948.

The P.O.W. book is currently being reprinted by The History Press. There are a number of papers published on other aspects of local history and talks in YouTube.

There have been a number of duties undertaken for the Civic Trust including being a registered Tour Guide, but my current task is overseeing the Health and Safety issues within the trust so as to protect staff, our many volunteers and the general population. The managers of The Folk, The Tour Guides and St Michaels tower all see Health and Safety as a top priority and work hard to maintain high standards.

As a director of both the Gloucester Civic Trust and Gloucesters Historic Buildings we have been busy with matters concerning The Folk with a view of protecting this city asset and reopening it to the public. Other important matters are our involvement with history plaques and open access to some of our finest buildings over heritage weekends. Being a director of both enables access by the Civic Trust to Gloucester Council on matters relevant to our national heritage.

In conclusion I must admit that it is a pleasure and a most rewarding experience working with likeminded enthusiasts.

## St Michael's Tower

by Carole Carpenter



As soon as we have sufficient volunteers we plan to open for our normal six days per week. However some of our volunteers will not come back until all restrictions have been lifted so this may take until July. We will see how we can manage - I have a few new volunteers to interview and give an induction.

At our meeting we hope to arrange a few events for the tower for the following weeks e.g. poetry cafe, depending on how the restrictions are lifted, distancing etc as to if we can have any talks with seating, just have to wait and see. At least we will be open and coffee/tea will be available for our many customers who I keep meeting around town!!!



A blast from the past! 2019 Retro festival when Marketing Gloucester led by Jason Smith, (in the first photo next to Miss Gloucester 2019) arranged for the cast of *Allo Allo* to visit St Michael's Tower. Colin Organ, Mayor at the time who organised the Festival, is shown leaving with Helga and Officer Crabtree. Oberleutnant Gruber is in conversation with Herr Flick.

## Rudhill Bells

by Phil Moss



Gloucester Civic Trust has accepted the offer of two bells from Norton St Mary's Church which are some of the earliest produced by the renowned Gloucester Bell Founder Abraham Rudhall. He developed a method of tuning bells by turning on a lathe rather than the traditional chipping method with a chisel.



Blue Plaque in Bell Lane.

By 1684 Abraham Rudhall had established his bell foundry on a site to the west of Archdeacon Street near the junction with Westgate Street. Just a stones throw from the Folk of Gloucester. Thus began the famous Rudhall dynasty that cast over 5000 bells in the city until 1848 when all the equipment was transferred to the foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank in London.

The two bells from Norton St. Mary's were cast by Rudhall in 1685 and have been described as significant examples of his work among some of the earliest surviving bells produced by him. One of the bells weighs 4.5 cwt (229kg) with a diameter of 28.5 inches (724 mm) the other weighs 5 cwt (254 kg) with a diameter of 29.5 inches (749 mm).

The histories of the important ancient industries of Gloucester are under represented within the city and the Norton bells would provide a fascinating centrepiece in a display of the bellfounders art.

The earliest known bell produced in the city was cast within the church of St. Oswald's Priory in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the following centuries a series of Gloucester bellfounders continued the trade making the city a nationally known centre of the industry.

It is interesting to realise that the occupants of the Folk of Gloucester building in 1685 would have been all too aware of the noisy tuning of the two Norton bells just a few yards away.