

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
CHARITY NUMBER 1181794**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Governing Document

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution dated 17 January 2019.

Trustees

Trustees during the year were as follows:

N.W. Kingsley	Chairman
Miss S.E. Brown	Treasurer
D.H. Aldred	
Dr. J.R. Broadway	
Miss H.M. Forbes	
Sir Nicholas Mander Bt.	
R.R. Mullings (appointed 17.07.2024)	
Dr. G. Owen (appointed 17.07.2024)	
Mrs S.B. Parsons	
Mrs S.P. Self	
T.M.H. Shearer (appointed 14.10.2024)	
Dr. R. Wallis	

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees are appointed for a term of three years. Trustees are eligible for reappointment for two further terms of three years after which they must stand down for one year. They are then eligible for re-election again.

Objectives of the CIO

- a. to advance the education of the public in the history of the historic county of Gloucestershire (including South Gloucestershire) and of the city of Bristol, and to foster public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the history of Gloucestershire and Bristol
- b. to advance research and other work in connection with the preparation of the Victoria County History of England relating to the historic county of Gloucestershire and the city of Bristol
- c. to encourage, promote and support local history research and writing in or about the historic county of Gloucestershire and the city of Bristol, drawing especially on the use of historical resources and furthering the active participation of the public through education and learning and providing the means of communication between those involved with local history.

The Trustees met on a quarterly basis and remained in regular contact between meetings.

Principal Address

The Charity's principal address is c/o Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (*cont.*)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Activities and achievements

Since its establishment in January 2019, the Charity has carried forward the programme of work begun under its Unincorporated Association (UA) predecessor (Regd No 1138520). Following the implementation of section 33 of the Charities Act 2022 in March 2024, the charity successfully applied to the Charity Commission for the merger of the UA with the CIO, and the unincorporated association was removed from the charity register on 1 July 2024.

During the year, three new trustees were appointed to the trust (Richard Mullings and Dr Grace Owen, who were appointed on 17 July 2024, and Thoss Shearer, who was appointed on 14 October 2024). Heather Forbes was reappointed as a trustee for a further three-year term on 9 January 2024. There are currently no trustee vacancies.

The CIO remained focused on its stated aims of educating the public in the history of the historic county of Gloucestershire, and advancing research and other work in preparation for further instalments of the Victoria County History (VCH) of Gloucestershire. The series of workshops for the general public, run in conjunction with Gloucestershire Archives and the University of the West of England, to provide training in historical research methods which the Trust delivered in 2022-23 was successfully repeated in 2023-24. The model developed for the training was praised by the Institute of Historical Research and was adopted for use in Wiltshire in 2024-25. This trust was not directly involved in that initiative, although some of our contracted researchers were tutors on the course. The trustees are particularly grateful to Dr John Chandler for developing and co-ordinating the delivery of the workshops. Dr. Chandler retired from his role as County Editor of the Gloucestershire VCH at the end of March 2024, and the Trustees entered into an arrangement with the Oxfordshire VCH Trust by which Dr. Simon Draper, one of their employees, devotes 10% of his time to acting as County Editor of the Gloucestershire VCH and we reimburse them for that proportion of his employment costs. This arrangement was made initially for six months, and having proved satisfactory to all parties was renewed for a further year, with the possibility of future extensions.

During the year the Charity had five contributing editors (historical researchers) under contract, supported by the work of a pool of volunteers whose activities range from cataloguing, indexing and calendaring records relevant to current research projects, to the analysis of records and drafting of text. Steady progress was achieved with the research on the three current projects, which will lead to hardback volumes in the Victoria County History of Gloucestershire Series, covering the Yate and Chipping Sodbury area of South Gloucestershire (Vol XIV); the Cheltenham district (Vol XV); and the Cirencester district (Vol XVI). Work continued on all three volumes during the year, and was completed on the history of Coates, the medieval history of Cirencester, and the architectural history of Cirencester and the adjacent parishes (for vol. XVI). Work is now in progress on finalizing the text, illustrations and introduction for volume XVI, which should go to press in 2025 or 2026. Work was begun on Charlton Kings and continues on Leckhampton and Swindon (for volume XV) and on Dyrham (for volume XIV). Once again, trustees were indebted to the staff of the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub for their support of our researchers and volunteers.

The Trust's continuing task is to raise the funds to keep the research going. During 2024, our focus was on raising the funds to complete work on volume XIV (Chipping Sodbury and district), and in May our royal patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, attended a fundraising event at Little Sodbury Manor to help raise the £60,000 required to research the four remaining parishes that will feature in this volume. Some twenty-five attendees made donations towards our appeal, and thanks in particular to one exceptionally generous donor, the target was reached. Contracts for two work packages to undertake the research and writing of the four parishes were advertised at the end of year, and contracts have since been agreed. During the year the trust also received an initial payment of £7,999 under the will of a Gloucestershire local historian, and a further payment is anticipated once the estate has been wound up. The trust continues to benefit from the generosity of a number of regular donors, whose monthly donations of sums between £5 and £100, in most cases with gift aid, currently provide about £13,000 a year towards the ongoing costs of the organisation.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (*cont.*)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Activities and achievements (*cont.*)

As the current volumes move towards completion, the trustees' planning turns to the next areas to be tackled: the market town of Winchcombe and its hinterland (volume XVII) and Marshfield and the Boyd Valley (volume XVIII). The trust held a launch event for work in the Winchcombe area in the spring of 2024, and has been working with volunteers to catalogue and analyse historical resources relating to the parishes in this area, ahead of the commencement of work by paid contractors. In the spring of 2024 a scoping document for the Marshfield/Boyd Valley volume was drawn up and approved by Trustees, but the focus on fundraising to complete work on the adjoining Sodbury area means active steps have not yet been taken to initiate work on this volume.

Reserves Policy

Beyond meeting agreed contractual commitments, the Trustees' aim is to maintain a sufficient reserve to be able to respond to unexpected opportunities and requirements.

Review of Major Risks

During the year under review, the Trustees reviewed and either rewrote or updated the policy documents that provide a framework for their work; reviewed the Trust's risk register, and took appropriate action.

Accounts

The attached accounts show the current state of the finances, which the Trustees consider to be sound.

N. W. Kingsley, Chairman
7 April 2024

On behalf of the Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Gloucestershire County History Trust CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;,
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

W.J. Abbott FCA
Randall & Payne LLP
Chargrove House
Shurdington
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 4GA

Date: 31 July 2025

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1181794

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted and Designated Funds					
		Volume XIV Sodburys	Volume XV Chelt (Note 5)	Volume XVI Ciren (Note 6)	Volume XVII Winch- combe (Note 7)	Total	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Donations from individuals	10,690	5,100	2,425	-	-	18,215	11,223
Donations from groups	36	-	-	-	-	36	132
Donations from charities	-	1,950	-	-	-	1,950	-
Donations from companies	-	52,300	-	-	-	52,300	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	7,999	7,999	-
Gift Aid	2,488	-	-	-	-	2,488	15,382
Workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Book sales	40	-	-	-	-	40	20
Bank interest	1,305	846	1,592	202	36	3,981	2,670
Total Receipts	14,559	60,196	4,017	202	8,035	87,009	31,427
Payments							
Editorial costs	10,817	-	17,675	8,580	-	37,072	40,300
Travel	36	-	-	-	-	36	134
Fundraising costs	-	40	-	-	-	40	-
Workshops	1,158	-	-	-	-	1,158	1,938
Website	106	-	-	-	-	106	105
Insurance and subscriptions	105	-	-	-	-	105	30
Bank charges	60	-	-	-	-	60	60
Total Payments	12,282	40	17,675	8,580	-	38,577	42,567
Net Receipts/Payments for the period	2,277	60,156	(13,658)	(8,378)	8,035	48,432	(11,140)
Cash funds as at 31 December 2023	50,103	-	63,921	10,274	-	124,298	135,438
Cash funds as at 31 December 2024	52,380	60,156	50,263	1,896	8,035	172,730	124,298

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1181794

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Cash funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted and Designated Funds					
		Volume XIV Sodburys	Volume XV Chelt (Note 5)	Volume XVI Ciren (Note 6)	Volume XVII Winch- combe (Note 7)	Total	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank (Note 8)	52,380	60,156	50,263	1,896	8,035	172,730	124,298
Other monetary assets							
Gift Aid	2,523	856	606	-	-	3,985	2,488
Accrued interest	343	406	377	25	54	1,205	-
	2,866	1,262	983	25	54	5,190	2,488

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1181794

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared on a cash basis. Assets and Liabilities at the year end are noted on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

2. COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2024, commitments on contracts with the editors totalled £52,420 as follows:

	£
Volume XIV	0
Volume XV	40,750
Volume XVI	6,000
Unallocated	5,670

3. USE OF HERITAGE HUB

The CIO has free use of the Dunrossil Suite for meetings of the Trustees and of the Elrington room for use by the editors.

4. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No remuneration or benefits were paid to trustees during the year.

5. RESTRICTED FUND FOR VOLUME XV CHELTENHAM

	General £	Charlton Kings (a) £	Total £
Balance 1 January 2024	-	63,921	63,921
Income			
Donations	2,425	-	2,425
Interest	-	1,592	1,592
	<u>2,425</u>	<u>1,592</u>	<u>4,017</u>
Expenditure			
Editorial costs	2,425	15,250	17,675
	<u>2,425</u>	<u>15,250</u>	<u>17,675</u>
Balance 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>50,263</u>	<u>50,263</u>

(a) With the agreement of the donor, the trustees have designated the donation of £50,000 initially to fund work relating to Charlton Kings in volume XV with any balance being used for other aspects of the same volume.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1181794

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (cont.)

6. RESTRICTED FUND FOR VOLUME XVI CIRENCESTER

	Coates Preston and general editorial £	Editorial Town and adjoining parishes £	Total £
Balance 1 January 2024	2,560	7,714	10,274
Income			
Interest	20	182	202
	20	182	202
Expenditure			
Editorial costs	2,580	6,000	8,580
	2,580	6,000	8,580
Balance 31 December 2024	-	1,896	1,896

7. DESIGNATED FUND FOR VOLUME XVII WINCHCOMBE

	Total £
Income	
Legacy	7,999
Interest	36
	8,035
Expenditure	
Editorial costs	-
	-
Balance 31 December 2024	8,035

8. CASH AT BANK

	2024 £	2023 £
Current account	660	851
Deposit accounts	112,070	123,447
One year fixed term bond (matures August 2025)	60,000	-
	172,730	124,298