



From The Warden, Michael Jones

Paid membership has increased slightly to 130, but sadly we have lost Nick Broady who passed away on Christmas day morning, Nick was a Court member for 9 years from 2014 to 2023. Nick is mentioned later in this newsletter. I mentioned the passing of founder member John Hazelwood, CBE, DL, in the last newsletter; I am pleased to enclose Sir Henry's comments of appreciation for the contribution John made to the Company.

I would like to welcome Nick Gazzard, an ardent campaigner against knife crime, Ian Davies, the senior Mason for Gloucestershire and Tony Allcock, who many of you will know as an international bowls player and past chair of the Kennel Club.

Our Winter Drinks party was a great success allowing members and potential members to meet each other informally. Roger Head once again allowed us the use of his home and on this occasion gave a talk on its history and restoration. There is a brief report on the website and it's also mentioned later in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to read more may use this link: <https://highnamcourt.com/history>. I am pleased to announce our Summer Drinks party will also be held at Highnam on 4 June. This date has been chosen by Roger as he has agreed to give a guided tour of his rose garden, so please place a reminder in your diaries - once again our thanks to Roger.

Many members of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire officiated and attended the opening of the University of Gloucestershire City campus by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, on 16 January. Those members officiating were Clare Marchant (Vice-Chancellor), Nicola de Longh (Chair of Council, University of Gloucestershire Board), Ruth Dooley (Chair of the University Gloucestershire Finance Committee), High Sheriff Julie Kent and Mark Hurrell DL.

Members will remember that at the AGM I announced that Colonel Phil Robson wished to stand down as Clerk. The Court has been through a selection process, advertised the role, held an interview with presentation, and discussed the candidate at a Court meeting. I am pleased to say that Dr Paul Massey has been appointed Clerk of the Honourable Company from 1 April 2026. There will be a period of dual running during the month of March to enable a smooth hand over. Paul, who currently chairs the Community Service Group, has agreed with Julie Kent that she will replace him as CSG Chair when she relinquishes her role as High Sheriff, also in April.

I would like to repeat my personal thanks to Phil for his help, guidance and friendship since I have been on Court. I would wish to thank him on the entire Company's behalf for all the work he does behind the scenes to keep the "show on the road." He has to deal with a multiplicity of issues in organising Company events. I have greatly valued his assistance and advice during my Wardenship.

At the request of Bishop Rachel Treweek, who is a patron of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, several members - Andrew Tabor, Steve Wood, Julie Kent, Paul Massey and I - visited GARAS on two separate occasions. The organisation which began over 25 years ago carries out exceptional work for both individuals and communities. Andrew's report is later in this newsletter.



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GARAS is running at a deficit and while any financial assistance we might give through our Trust would be limited, we may be able to help using a broader definition of philanthropic support to offer advice, time or assistance. GARAS are looking to recruit trustees in the following disciplines: -

- Law & Regulation (Employment, Data Protection)
- Marketing (including Digital & Social Media)
- Cyber
- Business Skills (Procurement, Continuity, Development, Enterprise, Property & Asset Management)
- Project & Event Management
- People Development (Conflict Resolution, Team Development)
- Data, Monitoring & Evaluation

The next two Honourable Company events are:

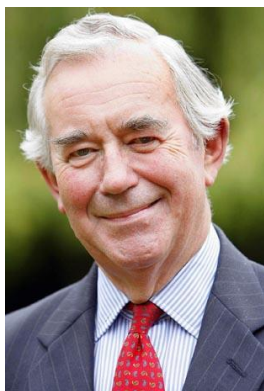
- The Annual Dinner at Cheltenham College on 16 April;
- The Gloucestershire Business Lecture on 14 May at the University of Gloucestershire Park Campus at 6.30pm with a members' reception to follow. The Lecture will be 'Women in Industry and Aerospace - her own Story' by Jacqueline Sutton, MBE. This is a unique opportunity to hear a truly outstanding woman, formerly Chief Customer Officer at Rolls Royce Civil Aerospace and currently Leadership Speaker at Judge Business School, Cambridge University.

In the last newsletter I shared with you a review that we were undertaking to see how the HCG could become more meaningful and contemporary in order to increase our standing in and our contribution to the County. This exercise has continued with a small team engaging with the IGs, some founder members and outsiders who interact with the HCG. This information has been used to compare ourselves with other similar organisations, both Livery and non-Livery. The message has been consistent and it has been shared with the IGs; the data now needs to be refined and discussed with Court and stakeholders to ascertain how or if we wish to act upon the information. Some of the headlines, but in no particular order, are:

- Our name Honourable is important, it is 'who we are'
- Our language and messaging need to be contemporary and powerful
- We need to recognise we need to be a modern Philanthropic organisation, where philanthropy covers all aspects of giving
- Building our Trust and the art of giving to the County is a corner stone of the Company
- We are not just For Gloucestershire, we are a 'A Force for Good', a 'Champion' of Gloucestershire
- We need to improve our communication, particularly our focus on 'Young People' (cadets, apprentices, musicians, sports, farmers, etc.), not only to our members but the County

I am always open to receiving members' views and am grateful for your support and engagement. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events.

Michael Jones, Warden



JOHN HAZELWOOD, CBE, DL

John Hazelwood died in Minchinhampton on 12th November after a life of community service in the county in addition to his post as Director of Wall's Ice Cream (Unilever) in Gloucester. He was one of the first to agree that the Honourable Company would be able to service the county in many ways; he became a founding member and was the first to succeed our founder, Henry Elwes, as Warden of the Company. His guidance was vital in the formation of the Honourable Company and he served on Court for nine years.

Our prayers and thanks go to his wife, Meg, and his family.

Sir Henry Elwes



NICK BROADY

It was with great sadness that we learned Nick Broady lost his battle with MND on Christmas Day. As a respected local business man, forming Avenue Cars over forty years ago, he gave his time to his business and numerous charities in Gloucestershire with the same commitment and dedication throughout his life. He took The Pied Piper Appeal into a new phase, forming the Promotional Board and opening two charity shops in their name.

As a founder member of the Honourable Company he formed the Sports Action Group and has always been a committed member at all events.

He leaves a family of children and grandchildren in the north and his wife Mille in Highnam.

Julie Kent

Nick's life was celebrated by approximately 600 people from all walks of life with a service in Gloucester Cathedral on 16 February. The eulogy was given by his friend Roger Head. A copy of Roger's eulogy was circulated to HCG members by email from the Clerk on 24 February.

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## GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS LECTURE 2025

I am delighted to report on another successful Gloucestershire Schools' Christmas Lectures event. Held on 8 December at the Bacon Theatre, Dean Close School, which is an ideal venue, some 500 students and staff enjoyed two very different presentations covering neurodiversity and the explosive effect of everyday foods.

Over the 15 years we have been running this event, some 7,500 students have attended and the feedback from teachers and students has been overwhelmingly positive. Our hope is that some of the attendees have gone on to achieve significant careers in science, technology, engineering and



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mathematics (STEM). One's only regret is that tracking students through school, university, apprenticeships and their subsequent careers is nigh on impossible. Perhaps the law of averages will allow us to assume the lectures have persuaded some students into STEM careers, thereby swelling the ranks of scientists and engineers so much sought after at this time.

The concept of the lectures isn't new; the Royal Institution has been running Christmas lectures since 1825 when Michael Faraday initiated the series to educate and enthuse young people in science. When we started our own series 15 years ago, we received support and guidance from the Royal Institution. So, this year we were proud to have, for the first time, a speaker from the Royal Institution presenting at our lectures. Ted Hill gave an exceptional presentation which held the students' attention throughout. No doubt setting fire to his hand may have had something to do with it!



When we receive the feedback from teachers and students, we are looking to learn from that and to improve the offering every year. Also, we are keen to see if the lectures have moved the students in any way towards STEM careers. The statistics indicate that there is some positive movement again this year,

which is very reassuring. The detail can be viewed through this hyperlink below together with a full report on the 2025 event: [HCG 2025 Christmas Lectures Report.pdf](#) and this is a link to a short video taken by one of the sponsors, Barnwood Limited: [Gloucestershire Schools' Christmas Lectures 2025 2.mp4](#)



Planning for this year has started already and two of our sponsors have committed funding again for 2026, for which we are grateful. All I need to do is identify suitable topics for the two presentations and I'm working on that!

Events of this magnitude do not happen without the backing of members of the Honourable Company and in particular the "HCG Helpers" who stand out in the cold directing attendees from their drop-off points to the theatre and also for their work inside the theatre managing the students and collecting feedback forms etc. I am eternally grateful for their help and support.

**Patrick Brooke**

## WINTER DRINKS PARTY

On 2 December the Honourable Company held its Winter / Christmas drinks party. New and existing members and guests were present.

Once again Roger Head allowed us to use his home as the venue. The fire gave a warm cosy feel to the evening as Roger gave his talk on the history of Highnam and its extensive restoration.



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Pointing out items of interest and some of the restoration en route, Roger guided us through to the hall and the 18th century stone staircase, then the music room and finally the Gold Room, now the dining room, where he pointed out a lion, eagle, dolphin and phoenix in each corner of the ceiling.

As part of the rich history of Highnam and Roger being a rugby and England supporter, he could not resist pointing out that at the Battle of Highnam in 1643 during the English Civil War the Royalist army, which included a significant number of Welshmen, was caught by surprise and routed by the English Parliamentary army, with the result that a significant number of Welsh were buried on his ground. This was taken in good sport by the Welsh descendants present - including the Warden!



## VISIT TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE ACTION FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS



*Michael Jones, Adrian Slade, Julie Kent, Paul Massey*

In January several members of the Honourable Company visited the GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) drop-in centre in Tredworth, Gloucester. The visit was at the invitation of Bishop Rachel Treweek, in her role as a patron of GARAS, who felt that in light of the current debate about migration it would be useful to raise awareness of the work of GARAS in helping vulnerable individuals, who have arrived in Gloucestershire after fleeing war and persecution abroad.

We were hosted by Adrian Slade (the outgoing Chair of Trustees), Sue Oppenheimer (the incoming Chair) and Warren Lee (CEO).

It was a highly informative visit which shone a light on a perhaps under-appreciated local charity, the fantastic work done by their staff and volunteers and the challenges they face including the need to recruit new trustees in such diverse areas as law and regulation, marketing, cyber, business skills and project and event management.

**Andrew Tabor**

## ARMED FORCES GROUP

Brigadier Charlie Calder, accompanied by Armed Forces Group Members, made visits to a number of sites to present the Cadet Unit Awards in November and December.



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Each unit was pleased to receive a generous cheque for £950 for the benefit of the unit as a whole. At the start of the evening Muster parade Brigadier Charlie presented the cheques with a certificate and then explained why the Honourable Company wished to support the cadet movement and also spoke about the benefits of being a cadet to personal development. Following this AFG Members observed a range of training events from Royal Navy piping lessons to the design and construction of a functioning rocket and most things in between. It was extremely heartening to see so many cadets in attendance clearly enjoying the training and making friends. Brigadier Charlie asked for a report on how the money had been spent and once received this will be shared with members of the Company.



*Squadron 2419  
RAFAC Quedgeley*



*Eastern Avenue Platoon, Glos ACF*



*TS Otter Tewkesbury  
Sea Cadet Corps*

### ARTS & HERITAGE GROUP

2026 events being organised by the A&H Group include:

- 24 April - HCG Member Rob Dixon will give a talk about his new book 'The Glosters in Korea' at The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imjin;
- 18 May - visit to Elmore Court about elvers and their conservation, plus lunch;
- 25 June - Visit to Gloucester Cathedral stonemasons' yard, plus evensong and library tours; drinks reception
- 25 September - Malvern Autumn show preview event

### INTEREST GROUPS

If you would like to join one of our Interest Groups please contact the appropriate Chairperson:

**Business Group** - Chair Michael Jones on [bg@honcoglos.org](mailto:bg@honcoglos.org)

**Arts & Heritage Group** - Chair Mark Hurrell on [aandh@honcoglos.org](mailto:aandh@honcoglos.org)

**Community Support Group** - Chair Paul Massey (Julie Kent from 1 April) on [csg@honcoglos.org](mailto:csg@honcoglos.org)

**Countryside & Environment Group** - Chair Peter Randall on [ceg@honcoglos.org](mailto:ceg@honcoglos.org)

**Armed Forces Group** - Chair Charles Calder on [afg@honcoglos.org](mailto:afg@honcoglos.org)



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### **UPCOMING EVENTS ... UPCOMING EVENTS ... UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The Annual Dinner at Cheltenham College on 16 April. Please refer to the Clerk's email of 25 February which gives full details. Replies required by Tuesday, 1 April.
- The Gloucestershire Business Lecture on 14 May at the University of Gloucestershire Park Campus
- Summer Drinks Party on 4 June at Highnam Court

### **THE HCG CHARITABLE TRUST**

#### **Vacancy for New Trustee**

In April a vacancy will arise for a new Trustee for The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Charitable Trust. The role of Trustee involves attendance at 4 meetings each year (normally March, June, September and December), during which decisions on grant applications are considered, and any necessary preparatory work. Any member who would like to fill the role should contact Margaret Fuller, the Trust Secretary, at [fullerswood@btinternet.com](mailto:fullerswood@btinternet.com)

At its December meeting the Trust awarded a total of £4,500 in grants to:

- i) CASS & Friends - a grass roots charity supporting aspiring Olympians and World Champions achieve their dreams; the grant was to support their Gloucestershire based athletes disadvantaged financially or in some other way, including physical disabilities.
- ii) Synwell Playing Fields Association - towards the cost of play equipment for the Toddler Age Group
- iii) St. Michael's Cornerstone Trust - for their Play Trail, which provides one-to-one parental support for families with children under two
- iv) Gloucester Community Building Collective CIC - for their Gloucester-wide Community Chest, which enables grassroots community initiatives addressing poverty, isolation, and social connection in the most deprived community areas.
- v) Stroud Earth Community - a Community Centre with a food pantry, a youth club, and a weekly 'pay as you can' community café; the grant was to buy food for the community café to supplement food that is donated from various sources
- vi) Tewkesbury Abbey Foundation - to support their high-quality music outreach programme in local primary schools, engaging up to 300 children with enriching singing and performance opportunities

More detail and photographs of grant presentations made to date can be found on the website here:  
<https://www.honcoglos.org/the-trust/recent-grants/>

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Please send me (Margaret Fuller at [fullerswood@btinternet.com](mailto:fullerswood@btinternet.com)) stories, event reports, photographs - anything you think will be of interest to your fellow HCG members. Constructive criticism and suggestions also welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

The Honourable Company's mailing address is:  
c/o hcrlaw, Ellenborough House, Wellington Street, Cheltenham GL50 1YD

<https://www.honcoglos.org/>

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