

GSIA

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Winter Lecture Series 2025-2026

The winter lecture series mainly takes place at the Dunrossil Room, Gloucester Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW at 7.30pm. The December and January lectures are provided online by Zoom.



30/09/2025 VINTAGE TRANSPORT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE, FILM SHOW

28/10/2025 INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF THE COTSWOLDS

15/11/2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2PM)

16/12/2025 THE SHREWSBURY FLAXMILL/MALTINGS (By Zoom)

27/01/2026 HISTORY OF CROFTON PUMPING ENGINE (By Zoom)

24/02/2026 THE STORY OF TWO STROUD CLOTH MILLS

24/03/2026 CUTS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

28/04/2026 HORSE-DRAWN TRAMWAYS OF THE WYE VALLEY

Tuesday 30 September 2025 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub - 7.30pm

VINTAGE TRANSPORT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE, A FILM SHOW INCLUDING AIR, BUSES, RAIL AND MORE.

The film show presented by Kate Peake and Angela Rendell includes a film of the aviation story of Gloucestershire, alongside a short film of the Purton hulks and Severn Bridge disaster. Also event films such as the Cotswold Vintage Bus Rally, Gloucester Tall Ships festival, Gloucestershire Vintage and Country Extravaganza and Gloucester Goes Retro.

Tuesday 28 October 2025 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub - 7.30pm

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF THE COTSWOLDS

Although the Cotswolds cannot be thought of as being an industrial area, two major industries, agriculture and quarrying, have been carried on for centuries. Furthermore, a range of much smaller industries have also thrived at one time such as woollen cloth manufacturing, silk thread production and brewing, of which happily, the last one continues today. Good transport systems are vital to support all industrial activity and the remains of these systems are a very important part of our industrial heritage. Accordingly, roads, canals and railways will also feature in this fully illustrated talk by Ray Wilson.

Saturday 15 November 2025 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub 2pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & TALKS ON MEMBERS CURRENT RESEARCH

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Heritage Hub on the afternoon of Saturday 15 November 2025 and will also provide an opportunity for members to share their current research projects. Slots of up to 15 minutes for each speaker are available - please contact Chas Townley chastownley@myphone.coop

Tuesday 16 December 2025 - By Zoom - 7.30pm

THE SHREWSBURY FLAXMILL/MALTINGS

The first wholly iron-framed building at Ditherington in the northern suburbs of Shrewsbury served as a flaxmill for about 90 years and as a maltings for a further 90. After many years of restoration, it now serves several useful purposes. It attracts visitors from all over the world and is also an attractive meeting place for local residents. Dr Barry Trinder, author of the recently published guide to the build, will analyse its history, reflect on how its importance came to be recognised, and outline the main features of its restoration.

Tuesday 27 January 2026 - By Zoom - 7.30pm

HISTORY OF CROFTON PUMPING ENGINE

Crofton Pumping supplies water to the summit level of the Kennet and Avon Canal. It started pumping in 1809 and continued working until 1959. Ian Broom's talk firstly covers the planning of the canal and the improvements made to the engines by the canal Company. It then considers the pumping station under the control of the GWR and the events leading up to its closure in 1959. The pumping station was acquired by the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust in 1968 and some of the major restoration carried out since is discussed, including the latest work supported by a National Lottery grant.

Tuesday 24 February 2026 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub - 7.30pm

PARALLEL FORTUNES: THE STORY OF TWO STROUD CLOTH MILLS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

This talk, devised by Ian Mckintosh, covers the fortunes of two major local mills, Ham and Longfords, that were given major investment in the 1900s and then closed in the latter part of the century. It suggests reasons for this that go beyond the standard one of lack of investment. It also considers the response of the workforce, first to prosperity and then to redundancy.

Tuesday 24 March 2026 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub - 7.30pm

CUTS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE – THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY'S CANAL NETWORK

There were eight canals built in Gloucestershire, the earliest opening in 1779 and the last in 1827. Only one is still fully navigable over its original length, but four others are in the process of restoration, and one is acting as a nature reserve. This presentation by John Putley reveals the history of canals, their infrastructure and how they were built, then looks at each of the county's canals in turn using documents from the county Archives.

Tuesday 28 April 2026 - Dunrossil Room, Heritage Hub - 7.30pm

HORSE-DRAWN TRAMWAYS OF THE WYE VALLEY

The early tramways in the Wye Valley were a transport system of horse-drawn waggons on rails, transporting goods such as coal and wood operating from the late eighteenth century to the introduction of steam locomotives. This talk explores the tramways known to have existed in and around the Wye Valley from Kington, through Brecon and Hay to Abergavenny, Monmouth, the Forest of Dean and Hereford and the companies that built and ran them, and the people who used them.

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

The Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology (GSIA) was formed in 1963 to promote the study of our industrial heritage, particularly that of Gloucestershire. Our activities include lectures, walks and visits, fieldwork, and you will receive regular updates by email with IA news and notices about GSIA events.

The society has a website gsia.org.uk which contains information about summer visits and winter lectures. There are also back copies of the GSIA Journal articles from 1971.

You do not normally need to be a Member first before you come to any of our events. Membership is currently £9, or £7 for students and retired members and an application form can be found on the website. www.gsia.org.uk/membership

GSIA is a Registered Charity Number 278603. Our Charitable Objects are “The study, recording and preservation for the advancement of public education of information and illustrative material relating to industrial archaeology, particularly in the County of Gloucestershire”.

Officers

President	Ray Wilson	president@gsia.org.uk
Chairman	Stephen Mills	chairman@gsia.org.uk
Secretary	Amber Patrick	secretary@gsia.org.uk
Treasurer	Sue Brown	treasurer@gsia.org.uk

Please send general enquiries to the secretary.

The picture on the front is of Shrewsbury Flaxmill and Maltings restored by Historic England and managed by English Heritage and the subject of our December talk by Dr Barry Trinder