

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY

Established AD 1657

Registered Charity no. 203159

April 2023

The Gloucestershire Society is one of Britain's oldest charities. In 1657, fifty Bristol merchants, all born in Gloucestershire, decided they should help others born in the county who had fallen on hard times.

For the last 366 years the Society has raised funds each year from generous donors to give to people in need who live within the boundaries of the old county of Gloucestershire, including Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Almost all of the money we raise is distributed in charitable donations because the work of the Society is undertaken by unpaid volunteers.

The Society makes small grants for a specific purpose to people who are in significant, and often desperate need, such as victims of domestic abuse, vulnerable families, the old and lonely, or the homeless.

Requests for help come to us from many organisations including Social Services, Citizens Advice Bureaus, Barnardo's, local councils, housing associations and other local bodies. Our volunteers, most of whom have worked for the charity for many years, assess applications and approve a grant of funds, typically of £200 or less. Last year we made donations to more than 800 people and to meet the demand we need to raise significant funds each year.

Today, at this time of rapidly rising prices, the need is as great as it has ever been and we would be enormously grateful for whatever support you can give us. A helping hand at the right time can be a lifeline.

Michael Dobson

President

By bank transfer

Bank: CAF Bank
Account No: 00007704
Sort Code: 40-52-40

By secure online donation

Please visit:
gloucestershiresociety.org.uk
Click on the "Make a donation"
tab and follow the "just Giving" link

By post

Please send a cheque to
The Gloucestershire Society in
the enclosed reply paid envelope.

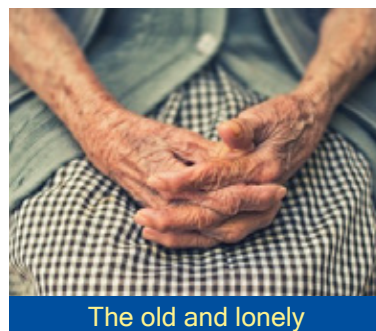
Gift Aid will make your donation go further. A Gift Aid form is enclosed.

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The Society

We seek donations from people connected with the historic county of Gloucestershire. The Society is well known in the county and we receive many requests for help throughout the year. Our four volunteers Moira Garner, Dot Oakes, Julie Thomas and Barbara Tregear process the requests we receive from our partner organisations and ensure that funds are paid out swiftly. Saffery Champness, chartered accountants in Bristol, provide professional support to the charity at a heavily subsidised rate, for which we are very grateful. The Society's costs are therefore kept to an absolute minimum and virtually all the funds raised are distributed in donations.



Annual service

The annual church service for supporters of the Society is an important tradition and has been held each year since our foundation. This year the service will be held at **St. Michael's Church, Winson, GL7 5ER** at 12.15pm on Sunday 17th September.



St. Michael's Church

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A helping hand at the right time can be a lifeline

£175 for a washing machine

We helped a single parent, a father on universal credit with mental health difficulties.

£200 for bedroom furniture

A boy of 14 has been living on the floor of his grandmother's sitting room for two years and now has his own room. He has nowhere else to go and he would like a bed and desk in his room.

£150 for a bed and a mattress

A man had a bad accident which led to brain damage. His relationship broke down before Christmas and he has been living in a hostel since then. He has now moved into a new home but he is sleeping on the floor.

£100 towards flooring

A woman who suffered in a violent relationship was moved by the council into a new property. She has two young children and is on limited benefits.

£150 towards furniture

A man who has been homeless for eight years and suffers from depression has been supported in temporary accommodation. In February he moved into a new property but he has absolutely nothing to his name.

£100 for help with carpets

A young autistic woman, a victim of a serious crime, moved from her mother's house to her first flat.

£175 for carpets and a freezer

A young single mother of two, fleeing domestic abuse which had seriously affected her children, moved to permanent accommodation.

£100 given

An elderly man living in a housing association home with mental health issues and unable to work, needed help with garden clearance or he would lose his tenancy.

£170 for a cooker

A single mother with a nine week old baby, her house damaged by fire, was staying with her mother until she could replace essential damaged goods.

£50 to buy coal

A man living alone who cannot afford central heating, looking for work but finding it difficult due to numerous health issues, needed coal to heat his home.

£110 towards bedding and curtains

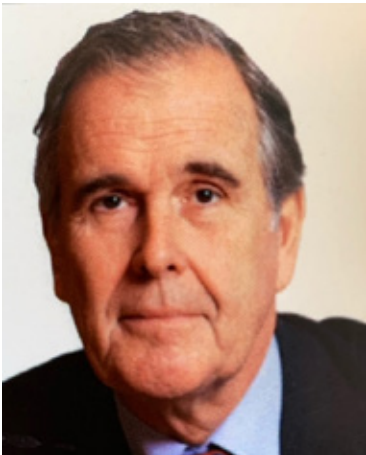
A woman living in hostel accommodation has virtually nothing in her room and no privacy, with no curtains or blinds.

£110 for bedding and household items

The pipes burst in the house of an elderly woman while she was in hospital for six weeks after a fall. Serious damage was caused to the contents of the house.

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Michael Dobson, President

Michael is married with two daughters and has lived in Gloucestershire for over 40 years, first at Hampnett, near Northleach and now at Winson, near Cirencester.

Michael worked in the City for 50 years. During that time he was Chief Executive of Morgan Grenfell PLC, a member of the Board of Deutsche Bank AG, and Chief Executive, and later Chairman, of Schroders PLC. He is currently Chairman of Berkeley Group PLC, the housebuilders.

He has worked for several charitable organisations, including as Chairman of the Investment Board of the Cambridge University Endowment Fund and President of the Reed's School Foundation.

Trustees

Michael Dobson, President 2023

Committee:
Daisy Berkeley
Richard Boggis-Rolfe, OBE
Alick Campbell of Lochnell
Moirá Garner
Dr Roger Head, OBE, DL
Jane Jenner-Fust, DL
Dot Oakes
Tim Pearce
Julia Rausing
Tim Ross
David Skinner
Lt. Col Andrew Tabor, JP
Julie Thomas
Barbara Tregear
Christopher White
Sir George White, JP

Hon. Secretary / Treasurer

Michael Strong, FCA, CTA
Saffery Champness LLP
St. Catherine's Court
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Bristol, BS8 1BQ

Administrator

Wendy Hill
Saffery Champness LLP, wendy.hill@saffery.com

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