

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY

Established AD 1657

www.gloucestershiresociety.org.uk

Registered Charity No 203159

March 2025

The charity was founded well over 300 years ago by the merchants and burgesses of Bristol to provide help to the very vulnerable of Gloucestershire. It's aims haven't changed and nor, sadly, has the need.

There are currently well over 1,000 homeless households in Gloucestershire. Over 100,000 food parcels are handed out annually and there are of course the old, the lonely, the children in need and victims of abuse, many of whom slip through the net of either being counted or receiving help.

Funds are collected each year by donation from friends and contacts of the society and then distributed, in sums of up to £250, sometimes more, for basic and essential items and to those needing emergency financial support. The claims are referred to the Society via numerous agencies, mostly charitable or local government, and then assessed. If approved, the sum is paid out immediately: no delay, no bureaucracy, no fuss.

The costs of the charity are minimal with nearly all the work provided by volunteers who are experienced and who in many cases have been a part of the charity for many years. Our only overheads are accounting and communications and even these are heavily subsidised by Safferys, our accountants, to whom we remain eternally grateful.

Now with the Winter Fuel Payment withdrawal, the cost of living increases and the government cut-backs, we anticipate a huge upturn in local need and our aim is to increase the amount we currently raise - around £200k pa - to nearer £500k pa in order to cope.

To help with this, we will spread the net more widely through greater publicity and by taking stands at the various events and shows that take place exclusively in Gloucestershire.

But we still desperately need your help as well. A donation - better still an annual donation - can be a lifeline.

Brian D'Arcy Clark

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 anyone, either privately or corporately connected with Gloucestershire. Whilst the perception is that the county is well-to-do, so often labelled 'Posh Glos' in the press, this couldn't be further from the truth.

In addition to the homeless there are over 1,000 children in temporary accommodation, and it is estimated that 12% of the population are in fuel poverty. Social services are stretched to their very limit and the need has never been greater.

In many instances we are the charity of last resort and a little can go a long way.

Our volunteers assess the claims as they come in from charitable organisations and local government sources. They know their areas well and, in many cases, they know of the individuals for whom help is sought. Problems don't always go away with a single donation of course, so this deep knowledge and experience is required to ensure that the most needy receive help first.

This year with the exorbitant costs of gas and electricity we will widen the scope of assistance to pay, or contribute to, bills, energy bills in particular, so that the old and lonely, the needy, don't have to decide between 'heat or eat', or live in constant fear of disconnection.



Children in need



Domestic abuse



The homeless



The Old and lonely

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. Mary's Church, Bibury, Glos.
at 11.00am on Sunday 28th September.**

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A helping hand at the right time can be a lifeline

£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.

£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.

£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.

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Brian D'Arcy Clark
President

Brian is married and has lived near Cirencester, Gloucestershire for most of his adult life. He has three married daughters two of whom live in Gloucestershire as well.

Brian has worked in the property industry and associated services for over 45 years. He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and set up Chesterfields in London, a business he ran for 25 years before selling to Savills plc. He was a founder and director of The London Magazine before becoming chairman for over 10 years. He was also a founder and director of Primelocation.com the nationwide prime property website.

Trustees

Brian D'Arcy Clark 2025

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Daisy Berkeley
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