

Genealogical Society of Victoria 2020 Annual Report

Our focus again this year was to promote events and activities that ensure our ongoing viability as a Society. Specifically, we planned to retain and grow membership, support our volunteers, involve members in an expanded range of activities and improve our IT capabilities while maintaining or even improving our financial situation. In March 2020, the ways in which we could do this suddenly changed with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown of the Queen Street GSV Centre. New ideas and strategies were necessary and the following report includes an account of our progress in this regard.

Finances

The Society's audited financial report for the 2019/2020 financial year has been published in a separate document on our website. The financial statements record a profit of \$32,026 for the Society for the year ended 30 June 2020, which compares to a profit in the prior year of \$31,185.

The profit in the current year has again been boosted by the very generous support of our members through donations and bequests. This has been particularly important in this time of great uncertainty, with the temporary closure of the GSV's Research and Education Centre and disruption to activities during the epidemic. In the current year the Society received \$38,015 in donations, an increase of almost \$20,000 over the prior year. There was also a final distribution of \$12,782 from the Estate of Roger Heslop and a \$16,933 bequest from the Estate of Dorothy Schnabl. It is wonderful to know that Roger and Dorothy both enjoyed and valued their time at the Society and their support through the bequests is very much appreciated.

The Society's underlying operating result, excluding the bequests and the \$20,000 of Government grants for COVID-19 cashflow support, was a loss of \$17,689. The major components of the loss were a significant increase in our premises lease cost, a decline in segments of our revenue during the epidemic, the costs of upgrading IT systems and the library catalogue, and a further decline in membership numbers. The Society's Council has continued to take actions to manage costs, while offering a range of new services, to keep the Society relevant and viable through (and beyond) the epidemic.

Council

At the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5th October 2019, Peter Johnston was elected as Vice President for a one-year term and Vicki Montgomery was elected as Secretary. Councillors elected were Michael Rumpff and Margaret McLaren (two-year terms), with Leonie Elliss and Jan Bayley (one-year terms). Councillor Simon Foster resigned during the year due to work commitments and Jan Bayley resigned at year end due to an unanticipated expansion of other commitments.

Claire Johnson was nominated for the award of a Fellowship of the GSV in acknowledgment of her extensive contributions to the Society over a long period. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

Certificates of Appreciation and our sincere thanks for their contributions to the Society were awarded to four volunteers: Kathleen Baker, Peter Collins, Mark Harry and John Stanford.

The Council continued to focus on ensuring that our services and activities are attractive to current and new members by developing resources and monitoring finances. Our yearly membership subscription was increased for all member categories in January 2020 to address the increasing costs of rental and IT costs in upgrading our systems for better access both at the GSV Centre and from home.

With the onset of the March Covid-19 lockdown our future financial situation was unclear. Due to the anticipated loss of income from our education activities, research, book sales and donations, in April Council decided it would be financially prudent to reduce the costs associated with the publication of *Ancestor*. Therefore, the June issue was provided to most members on-line, as a pdf or a 'flipbook', with a very reduced print run. This measure was for the June issue only but it saved the GSV nearly \$5000, mainly in reduced mailing costs. It also provided members with an opportunity to experience a digital version.

Government support for staff wages was not available so in May we launched a donations campaign with a target of \$10,000 to help us cover the loss of income during the Covid-19 lockdown. The response of our members was overwhelming, the generosity of donors amazing. We far exceeded our target with total donations for the year 2019-2020 reaching over \$38,000. We thank all members for their ongoing support and words of encouragement. It is really appreciated

From June strategies such as online delivery of events and activities were developed and successfully implemented, as described in the Education section below. However, there was ongoing concern about our rental situation.

Late in 2019 a review of our lease arrangements by the landlord had resulted in an unexpectedly large increase in rent. We conducted discussions with the landlord over the Christmas period and the GSV would like to acknowledge the generous pro bono expert advice given us by the Nicole Gervasi Property Group during this period. Throughout 2020 communication with the landlord has been extremely difficult, with our many emails and phone calls ignored. A recent lease offer by the landlord is not acceptable and the prospect of obtaining alternative premises is being considered.

This year has been challenging for us all, with an overlay of further challenges for the GSV Council. I would like to acknowledge the generous time and efforts of Councillors, and thank them for their tireless and patient support.

Membership

As with other comparable volunteer-run societies we continue to be impacted by declining membership numbers. Reasons given by members for not renewing included aging issues, unwillingness to come into the city and deciding that their family history research is completed. However, the decline from June 2019 until June 2020 in financial member numbers was limited to about 100, with a total of just under 3000 members (see the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Report, published on our website). Starting Family History talks were held at the GSV Centre specifically for RHSV members. This resulted in a number of new memberships and may prove a useful future model for recruiting members.

Since the lockdown of the GSV Centre our online offerings have attracted a number of new members, many located outside the Melbourne area, and many previous members have re-joined the Society. Arrangements were made with online database providers for our members to access the data from home and this facility proved very popular with our membership.

On first joining the GSV we encourage new members to attend two important presentations: "Introduction to the Society" and "Starting Family History". To maintain this service during the pandemic, in May 2020 we made webcasts of these presentations available online via our website and new members have made good use of this resource.

Changes in Library opening hours by extending library services until 7pm on Tuesday evenings was discontinued due to lack of patronage. The possibility of offering evening education activities digitally in the post-Covid-19 future is being considered.

Volunteers Team

The number of registered volunteers is now 178, a little fewer than last year. Regular training sessions for volunteers, both those working in the library assisting members with research and those involved in various digitisation and scanning projects, continued until the March lockdown. Since that time tasks like scanning, checking and re-scanning have stopped. However, many of our indexers have worked tirelessly from home during this period, indexing online records for adding to the catalogue and testing online forms used by members and non-members to request research services from the GSV. Regular Zoom based meetings with these indexers have ensured the high quality of their work is maintained. More generally, we have kept in touch with volunteers via the online monthly Volunteers Newsletter and several Zoom meetings.

The Society simply could not function without our dedicated volunteers. Their ongoing assistance, giving us their valuable time and expertise, enables us to continue providing the range of activities we now have for our members. We are very grateful for their commitment to the society.

Margaret McLaren
Convenor

Computer Resources and IT Systems Team

Both before and during the lockdown, the IT team has been involved in a range of projects that enhance the digital experience of GSV members and staff. These projects include moving files and webcasts to the cloud, a project partially funded by a donation from Amazon and using Gsuite for emails and Google Drive, a project fully funded by a donation from Google. The new catalogue interfacing with our files has also been moved to new storage locations. The GSV is very grateful to the big technology companies for their support.

The Library menu has been continually improved and updated. The files accessed by this menu currently have to be housed at the GSV due to copyright restrictions and cannot be accessed by members from home. An upcoming project for the IT team will be to approach all copyright holders to seek permission for us to store their publication on the cloud and to allow access from outside the GSV. This will be a massive but necessary program.

The team should be thanked for their hard work throughout the year in the multitude of tasks undertaken to not only maintain the IT system but to respond at any time to system and other failures. This has included having to obtain a permit to come into the GSV Centre during the lockdown period. Their expertise, dedication and patience is appreciated by all.

Team members were instrumental in setting up our Zoom software, training members to host Zoom meetings and classes and helping members become comfortable with this digital format. They have continued in the months since to organise Zoom bookings, host activities and generally trouble-shoot where necessary. The GSV is very grateful for the contributions of this team.

Peter Johnson

Convenor

Communications Team

Web development

Fine-tuning of the website continued and is still ongoing in order to give consistency in navigation across all webpages. The top menu now includes our new "Our Collection" giving a consolidated description of what we have, incorporating the new databases. The information in "Who Does What at The GSV" has been updated. A revised "Collection Policy" and a "Guide to Donating Material" are being prepared and will be available on the website as well as in hard-copy.

The team is working to rationalise the number of forms we have on the Research page with the aims of improving efficiency. Text describing functions and services is being revised and will be uploaded once forms are updated. Volunteers, working from home, have been asked to test out the forms.

Support social media communications

Blog posts are produced at approximately weekly intervals. These include regular updates about the Society in "From the Keyboard of the President" which supplement the quarterly "Pen of the President" in *Ancestor*. Blogs have proved the most effective way of our advertising for the GSV. After the blog "Family History Matters" is published there is often a rush of bookings for activities and events. The team is also responsible for producing and uploading the Flipbook version of *Ancestor* each quarter.

Our Facebook site featured posts of interest every week in the year and our following continues to grow. A number of our Special Interest Groups now have closed Facebook groups and all our closed groups are proving popular. Traffic on our Forum, is variable but gradually increasing. John Blackwood is now moderating the Forum with the help of Anne Nolan.

Janne Bonnett
Convenor

Library and Research team

In August 2020 our long-awaited modern format for searching the GSV Collection was made available to members. The underlying program remains the same, with a new 'discovery layer' that provides a fresher, easier and new means of access, including a capability of searching across all databases. A detailed account of how to search the Collection was provided in the September issue of *Ancestor*. Non-members can view our catalogue and see limited information about the records. On behalf of Council and all members I would like to publicly thank all those involved in the prolonged often frustrating work making this resources available.

Our Victorian databases are unique to the GSV. There are now more than 3 million records in the Genealogical Index of Names (GIN) database of people mentioned in our library holdings and elsewhere. These include names from hospital, criminal and school records, directories and newspapers as well as pioneer registers and published books. A new separate database called Milestones now contains nearly 1.4 million entries including births, baptisms, deaths and burials plus obituaries, cemetery and church registers. One of the resources that was previously underused was our extensive collection of more than 160 webcasts (formerly called podcasts). We have now included a brief description of each webcast in the catalogue entry. New webcasts will be added as they become available.

Research Services have continued during the Covid-19 lockdowns with staff and volunteers working from home to help both members and non-members with their research queries.

Education

During the latter part of 2019 into early 2020, the Society continued to offer a range of education programs relevant to members' interests in a variety of formats at the GSV Centre. These included classes on using various databases and other resources, providing basic research skills for family historians. Regular discussion circles, videos, talks, courses, special research library days, tutorials and seminars on a wide range of topics were also held.

With the March Covid-19 lockdown of the Centre, the GSV decided to continue with as many of our education programs as possible by presenting them online using Zoom software. A Digital Education team was formed to implement this strategy. Convenors of Discussion Circles, class presenters and any other members expressing interest, were given training in using Zoom by volunteers with expertise in this new delivery format. This means that we now have a good cohort of members who are able to organise meetings and present our education programs using Zoom from their homes and many more who are now comfortable attending online presentations.

Meeting via Zoom has been very popular with members while the GSV Centre has been closed. It has proved a bonus for many members who, because of distance or mobility issues, have never been able to attend our events and activities. Many of us are in the "vulnerable" category and at this point in Victoria we are advised to limit use of crowded public transport and being in closed areas. In addition, the GSV has a policy of making much greater use of digital communications for financial reasons, and this year our Zoom meetings have certainly been a successful example of this.

Meeting digitally does have its limitations however. Some members do not have or do not wish to use, the necessary digital equipment. Many others would prefer to resume face to face contact because much of the enjoyment of doing Family History is socialising with like-minded researchers. Discussion Circles in particular are better when face-to face. In order to give members the choice that suits them, we are currently investigating the technology needed to produce and broadcast simultaneous presentations to members, located at the GSV Centre and to those logged in from home.

Collaboration with other organisations has continued. These include the Immigration Museum, Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria, and the RHSV. In the latter half of 2019, the society participated in the Melbourne Tartan Festival, Rare Book Week, the Seniors Festival and National Family History Month. In addition, pre-Covid-19 presenters from the GSV spoke at family history sessions organised by educational groups like local library services, local family history societies and heritage groups.

David Down
Convenor

Discussion Circles

Our Discussion Circles provide a very popular informal venue for members to meet and discuss common interests and to obtain assistance resolving roadblocks in their family history research. Many Circle convenors provide emailed copies of the meeting presentations and notes to their members including those who are unable to attend in person. We thank the convenors of all the Discussion Circles who contribute their time and effort organising and running these meetings.

As noted above, most of our Discussion Circles have continued as online meetings during the pandemic lockdowns. Members have become comfortable with this delivery format and many are confident with making presentations. Numbers attending have increased considerably. In particular, we have found that Circles held via Zoom are a bonus for our remote and/or less mobile members who still want to engage with and learn from other members.

All Discussion Circles are open to GSV members. Bookings should be made by contacting the GSV administration. Dates and details of Discussion Circle meetings are notified in *Ancestor* and posted on the GSV website and Blog.

Victorian and Tasmanian Discussion Circle

The Discussion Circle is functioning well with up to 40 members attending meetings this year. Members are enthusiastic to participate by presenting their research and suggesting topics for future meetings. Topics discussed include 'Women on the goldfields' and 'Tasmanian research and resources.' Our September meeting dealt with Brick Walls. At this meeting, with the help of David Down, we successfully used the Zoom function of dividing participants into breakout groups (smaller more-focussed groups) then reconvening as a large group for a final discussion. Feedback on Zoom meetings so far has indicated members would like to continue using Zoom as it enabled more frequent attendances. Some interest was expressed in evening meetings and the feasibility of this will be investigated. Thank you to all members of the circle for their support. In particular, David Down and Meg Bate have assisted with Zoom and Meg has also provided great resource lists for group members.

Gayle Nicholas
Convenor

Counties of Northern England Discussion Circle (CONE)

The Group has grown to 60 on the mailing list and an average of 20 attendees to the monthly events. A focus this year has been examining the social customs that affected the lives of our ancestors living in the north of England over the last few centuries. We have looked at health and public health, the impact of transportation systems, the growth of industries such as shipbuilding and mining, housing, food and diet and recreation. The emphasis has been on what records exist and where they are located.

David Down
Convenor

DNA Discussion Circle

At this Circle members discussed a range of DNA topics ranging from findings in ancient DNA research to members' experiences with the DNA testing databases. Online meetings were not able to be held during the lockdown period.

David Andreasson

Convenor

Early English Discussion Circle

The monthly meetings of the Early English Discussion Circle are designed to help members with their pre-1700 English research. There is a real incentive for researching back to this period as many records which don't exist after 1700 then become available to researchers. These records document aspects of how our ancestors lived their lives in the centuries between medieval and modern England. Discussions often touched on the influence of social, political, economic and religious changes that occurred during that period.

The Circle has developed its own electronic database of websites, books and other relevant sources to assist members. Online meetings were not able to be held during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Alan Fincher

Convenor

London Discussion Circle

Only nine meetings were held this year as two meetings were cancelled due to the first lockdown but meetings resumed via zoom from May 2020 onwards. Topics discussed were wide-ranging, covering missing census pages, health reports, merchant shipping, maps, women, the East End, *London's Lowlife* and *Locating London's Past*. New and online resources as well as methods for solving brick walls were also discussed. Presentations by Circle members included Charles Booth's Poverty Maps, Google Earth, Crime, Probate, Markets, Workhouses, Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital and the Working Horses in London.

Vicki Montgomery

Convenor

South West England Research and Discussion (SWERD)

SWERD has continued as a very active discussion circle. With over 150 GSV members on the SWERD email list, the south west counties remain a key area of interest for family history research. Members presented to a number of meetings on their own research, some meetings were devoted to helping members resolve their brick-walls in the south west counties and we also focussed on how to research female ancestors in the south west. We continued interaction through email after commencement of the lockdown and that has switched over to very interactive and well-attended Zoom meetings since June 2020. Our December meeting was a social occasion, with a south west quiz (the questions were way too hard) as a fundraiser for purchase of south west county materials for the GSV library.

Stephen Hawke

Convenor

British India Discussion Circle

There has been more interest in this topic from GSV members over the last 12 months. The online presentation format proved successful with the meeting in August attracting members from New South Wales and Western Australia as well as Victoria. This meeting was held at the later time of 7.30pm and future meetings may continue to be held via zoom and at the later time.

Mary-Anne Gourley
Convenor

Writers Discussion Circle

The Circle continues to support members transform their family history research into written or other shareable formats. They also support the publication of *Ancestor* by writing book reviews, contributing articles and serving on the editorial team.

This year members have discussed a number of issues including 'organising research notes to make writing easier' and 'the form and structure of a family history'. Members have also written, shared and assessed examples of a number of topics that are relevant to developing writing skills such as 'Creating a sense of tension', and 'Integrating conflict or struggle in a story'.

Attendance at meetings has changed since the lockdown. Some who used to attend in person no longer take part and this needs to be explored. Other members now attend when they couldn't previously due to distance. Overall numbers are about the same or slightly lower.

Penny Mercer
Convenor

DNA and Family History Program

The program has been reorganised during this year. Three new webcasts introducing Genetic Genealogy are available on the GSV website for those considering or having just completed a DNA test. From August 2020 the previous six DNA modules have been expanded and are now presented as a series of bimonthly lectures on Zoom with accompanying emailed hand-outs by GSV member Alan Rhodes. This new lecture series has been very popular and well attended. The DNA Genetic Genealogy Study Group, a self-help group for members with more advanced DNA analysis skills convened by Maureen Trotter, also meets by Zoom each month to keep members up to date with current understandings and techniques.

Convenor
Penny Wolf

Special Interest Groups

International Settlers Group (ISG)

As with all groups, the year has been a difficult one for the ISG. But we do now seem to have embraced the technology that is Zoom, and meetings have now recommenced via that medium.

In April this year we received the resignation of Yvonne Izatt from our Committee. Yvonne has served the ISG for over two decades, and was our Chair for over fifteen years. It will be a challenge to replace her expertise. At our AGM in August, Yvonne was awarded with Honorary Membership of the ISG, and was presented with a plaque in recognition of her work.

Our three General Meetings in the past year have featured:

August 17 2019 – AGM – *“What is your most precious family object (non-British)”* which was a fun presentation from several members.

November 16 2019 - Angela Scarino, Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics at the University of South Australia, and Antonio Mercurio, educational consultant: *“We Left. E Partimmo”*

February 15 2019 – *Annual “Problem Solving Workshop”*

Our Annual Luncheon was held on Friday 22nd November 2019 at the Royal Melbourne Hotel in Bourke Street. With a private room, we were able to enjoy ourselves, and we had a good turn-up of members, plus partners. This year’s function has been cancelled.

Before the lockdown, I was able to travel and deliver talks to both Swan Hill and Gisborne, both of which I believe were well received.

I do want to thank my Committee for their work. Jenny Murray is valued for her constant advice, William Taylor as Treasurer, Chris Elmore for editing our Newsletter, and the rest of the team for their hard work and assistance. Thank you to Marie-Therese Jensen, Lyn Johnson, Marianne Giffard, and Joan Merenra, who unfortunately has had to stand down after this year’s AGM.

The continuing lockdown has not been conducive to book buying, but we have made some additions to the GSV library this year by purchasing the following:

- Journeys into Chinese Australian Family History. S. Couchman (ed), Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria: Melbourne, Vic, 2019
- La Nostra Storia – The Story of Italians in Ballarat. Jan McGuinness (Winner Cultural Diversity Award, 2019 Victorian Community History Awards)
- In Their Words Volume IV: German - William F. Hoffman and Jonathan D. Shea. (N.B. The Polish, Russian and Latin Volumes are already in the Library)
- My European Family: The First 54,000 Years – Karin Bojs

The ISG continues to be an important Service Group for the GSV as more and more members become aware of their non-British origins.

Michael Rumpff
Chairperson

Scottish Ancestry Group (SAG)

This year the Scottish Ancestry Group remains in a stable financial position with the annual subscription for *Thistle* remaining at \$11 and a membership of 195. The September and November 2019 quarterly meetings were held at GSV. In September Susan McLean talked on "*Vanora's Stone: a Perthshire tale of Myth, Mystery & Murder*" and in November James Donaldson on "*Farewell to the Heather*"-*Scottish Highland Migration*. Both talks were well attended.

The Group had grand plans to celebrate their 30th Anniversary in 2020 with a special event at the March 21st quarterly meeting at the Immigration Museum. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled together with the June quarterly meeting due to the pandemic closure. Fortunately we were able to offer our two Beginner's Workshops conducted by Joy Roy, one in September 2019 and one in March 2020 just before the Centre closed.

The SAG newsletter 'Thistle' is published quarterly with a distribution of 240 copies to SAG members, GSV Member Societies and other associations. With restrictions in the use of the GSV Centre for preparing the mail-out of our newsletter, we resolved to send an electronic copy to all our members with an email address for the June, September and December 2020 editions, and a hard copy to 15 members without email. We will review this decision in 2021.

A major achievement in the last twelve months was the completion of a scanning project that included hard copies of our Thistle newsletters from N° 1, Vol. 1, March, 1990 to N° 4, until Vol. 29, December 2018. The scanning project also included numerous noteworthy papers, in both hard and electronic format, that have been presented by SAG committee members and other presenters at past conferences and seminars. In all, almost 900 pages were converted to a searchable .pdf file format that can now be accessed from the GSV library catalogue.

We continue to purchase resources for the GSV library. This year they included ongoing subscriptions to Scottish Family History journals and the purchase of books on a variety of subjects including Clans of the Scottish Highlands, Changing Values in Medieval Scotland, Scottish Witchcraft, and Scottish Children and Youth - Opening Schools, Closing Prison, Children and Youth in Premodern Scotland.

Planning of our Education Program for 2021 is in progress including our Biannual Seminar in July.

Margaret McLaren
Chairperson

Irish Ancestry Group (IAG)

In February this year we were very sad to learn of the death of our Chairperson, Beryl O’Gorman. After joining the GSV in 1992, Beryl and her late husband Brian became joint editors of the IAG newsletter *Blarney* in 1997 and she continued as editor after Brian’s death in 2012. Beryl sourced articles and information from her many personal and online contacts and always made the newsletter an interesting and engaging read, a real highlight of the GSV’s offerings. Her commitment to Irish family history research was exemplified by her willingness to give talks and presentations, not only within IAG and GSV, but also to many outside groups. Beryl is greatly missed by her fellow IAG members, as well by colleagues and associates within the GSV. An extended account of her long and loyal contributions to Irish research at the GSV was included in the June edition of *Ancestor*.

IAG membership is staying steady with over 300 copies of *Blarney* printed each quarter for members, reciprocal groups and others. Irish Research Help days have continued, initially in the library, and more recently via Zoom. We are especially grateful to Maureen Doyle and Gwen Hardingham who have ensured that our newsletter and research help for GSV members has continued this year. Peter Cleary has stepped in as Chairperson, but to maintain the IAG’s important role in maintaining the high standards of Irish research at the GSV, we need to increase the size of the IAG committee, and the group will be seeking to do this in the coming year.

Peter Cleary
Chairperson

Member Societies

All of our Member Societies seem to have experienced very quiet years, no matter which part of the State they are based in. Activities, particularly in the first six months of this year, had to be cancelled, and local Society headquarters locked down. This has proven difficult for the smaller Societies, who depend so much on personal contacts for their existence.

It has taken the GSV some months to adapt to Zoom meetings, and whilst some of our Member Societies were as quick to adopt this technology, many others have chosen to close down. However, it is pleasing to note that many Member Societies still managed to produce regular newsletters which have been gratefully received by our Library, as well no doubt, by the individual members.

The lockdown also meant that the annual get-together of Member Societies at the GSV was cancelled. This event is normally scheduled for May, and this unfortunately meant we went from pre-planning, issuing an agenda, and asking for reports to the unfortunate cancellation. The GSV was not well enough advanced with our Zoom technology to be capable of using it at that time. However, a number of Societies did respond with reports for the meeting, and these have been circulated for consideration.

We will have to wait to see what 2021 has in store for us.
Michael Rumpff

Ancestor Journal

Four issues of Ancestor were released on schedule this year in both print and digital formats. The June issue was released with a minimal print run to save costs for the GSV but was compensated by the introduction of a digital flipbook. The formatting of web links which now work correctly in both print and digital forms of the journal is a welcome development. Covid-19 disruption has meant that the 'Whats On' calendar of events is, for now, a listing of Zoom links.

The GSV Writing Prize for 2020 received 12 entries this year and prizes have been awarded. We congratulate both the winner, Brian Reid, and the runner-up, Susan Wight. Prizes were again donated by [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). The Team members have remained the same in 2020: Barbara Beaumont, Martin Playne, Bill Barlow, Sue Blackwood, Leonie Elliss, Tina Hocking, Margaret Vines and Jay Wickham.

Conclusion

This year has certainly been a very busy and challenging one for the GSV but we can be proud of what we have achieved in maintaining a viable Society.

During this time our volunteers and staff (Linley Hooper, Meg Bate and Linda Farrow) working from home, have continued contributing their time and expertise to provide members with resources and services. Their hard work and commitment ensures that the GSV functions smoothly and efficiently.

Our members have proved loyal, generous and supportive. On behalf of the GSV we thank you all.