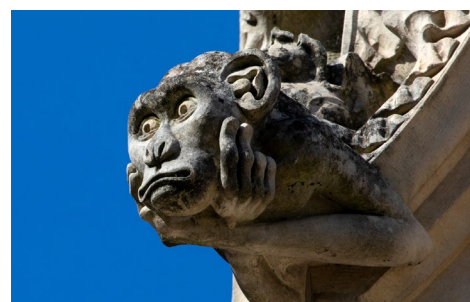


Living and Working in Gloucestershire



Gloucestershire is a county of contrasts – from the urban centres of Cheltenham and Gloucester, to the rural beauty of the Forest of Dean, Stroud Valleys and the Cotswolds. History, art, culture and outdoor pursuits along with fantastic schools, fun days out and close proximity to the M4 and M5 motorways mean everything you need is on your door step.

Did you know?

Gloucestershire is home to cheese rolling (as seen in the Netflix documentary 'We are the Champions'), woolsack racing and the Cotswold 'Olympicks' where shin kicking is the name of the game!

Many of the scenes for Harry Potter were filmed at Gloucester Cathedral, the first small pox vaccine was developed by Edward Jenner, who lived close to the historic Berkeley Castle and who our Trust Headquarters is named after, and the Gold Cup, part of the Cheltenham Festival, is one of the most prestigious horse racing events in the world.

More Claims to Fame

Gloucestershire is home to royalty, with both Prince Charles and Princess Anne, living within the county boundaries. You can visit the gardens at Highgrove House (the home of Prince Charles) in Tetbury and then spend time at Westonbirt Arboretum, which is just down the road, for a day out. Westonbirt also hosts concerts as does Kingsholm – the home of Gloucester Rugby.

Out and about in the county (or at the rugby) you might spot Jamie Dornan, Dom Joly, Simon Pegg, Lily Allen, Tom Kerridge, or even Kerry and Kurtan (Daisy May and Charlie Cooper) from *This Country* – in fact some of the scenes from *This Country* were filmed in one of our Cotswolds Hospitals!

In the Forest of Dean, Puzzlewood was the setting for some of the scenes for the more recent *Star Wars* films.

Arts and Culture

There's a long history of arts and culture in Gloucestershire. The county was the birthplace of Gustav Holst, Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells and Ivor Gurney and in the Forest of Dean (as well as other parts of the county) the tradition of brass banding is still going strong. Cheltenham is home to a wide range of festivals, most famously the Cheltenham Literature Festival and the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. You can enjoy concerts at Cheltenham Town Hall and see some of the top shows from the West End at the Everyman Theatre, while the Three Choirs Festival is held at Gloucester Cathedral.

A number of sports, literary, acting and pop celebrities also come from the country including, Simon Pegg (*Hot Fuzz* and *Star Trek*), Yasmin Bannerman (*Hollyoaks*, *Maybe Baby* and *Killing Me Softly*), Brian Jones (the Rolling Stones), Alastair Cooke (previous England Cricket Captain and the country's all-time leading run-scorer in Test cricket), Laurie Lee (author and poet), Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards (Olympian skier), Joanna Trollope (author) and Dennis Potter (playwright).



Leisure Activities

The countryside in and around Gloucestershire is like a playground – from the mountain bike tracks of the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds, the walking routes such as the 100 mile Gloucestershire Way, paddle boarding and kayaking on the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal, to fishing, golf, horse riding, and much more.

In terms of scenery, Gloucestershire has it all. The Cotswolds are well renowned for their picturesque towns and villages – many of which feature yellow Cotswold Stone buildings. There are also many areas of historic and scientific significance, as well as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the Forest of Dean.



Food and Drink

In Gloucestershire we don't just roll cheeses down hill – we also make the famous Stinking Bishop cheese at Dymock, near Newent. Double Gloucester cheese is still made from the milk of Gloucester cattle and you can buy local cider and beer, including the famous Old Spot and Pigs Ear beers made by Uley Brewery. Stroud is home to a famous farmer's market and if you're looking to pick something up on the move, Gloucester Services is among one of the most prestigious service stations in the country and has won awards.

Living in Gloucestershire

There are a wide range of housing options in the county. Public transport and the road networks are good, so commuting is not a problem. We are well connected with the M5 and M4 motorways and large railway stations in Cheltenham and Gloucester, so travelling from any direction, including from Bristol, Birmingham, Swindon, Cardiff, and Oxford are all possible.

Education

The county has a wide provision of primary and secondary education, with a rich tapestry of great state, independent, special needs and alternative schools. In addition to these, there is plenty of Further and Higher Education available locally through Cirencester College, Gloucestershire College, Hartpury Agricultural College, the National Star College, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and the University of Gloucestershire.



A Diverse County

Gloucestershire has a truly diverse population which is one of its strengths. There are a number of great community initiatives, networks and events in place. For example, 'Pride in Gloucestershire' runs a fun packed high profile annual Pride day in the city of Gloucester, where the community comes together in celebration of LGBTQ+ life. The Trust itself has a thriving Diversity Network supported by a range of sub networks for Women's Leadership, Black and Minority Ethnic, LGBTQ+ and Disabled colleagues. While the Trust has broad representation within its workforce, we are keen to continue improving our workforce diversity, particularly in senior roles.

Why come and work with us?

We are an organisation of 5,400 colleagues across a whole range of different disciplines. We have ambitious plans to fully integrate physical health, mental health and learning disability services – a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. We have a range of exciting service developments and are a national pilot in many areas. We're also focused on developing services through co-production with people with lived experience and are adopting a dynamic approach to the introduction of Peer Support Workers.

If you join us, we will support your ongoing development, whether that's through our leadership programmes, professional development and supervision or through national initiatives. In Gloucestershire we work collaboratively to provide the best services through employing the best people. We support our colleagues with staff benefits, including a range of benefits and offers for colleagues, including a 24/7 counselling and support line. We promote and support flexible working, and generally aim to help you to stay inspired, fulfilled, healthy and well.

We hope we've encouraged you to come and work for us – we look forward to welcoming you to GHC!