



**Gloucester FM**  
**Report 2021-2022**

## **Acknowledgements**

Carol Francis

Chris Maltby

Gary Thomas

Reverend Babs

Mike Sutherland

Brian Thompson

Jacky Francis

Eric Newell

Helen Williams

Bill Best

Ollie Organ

BBC Radio Gloucestershire

Stantek Electronics

KT Travel

Davey's Maintenance

New Generation Art

Jamaican High Commission

Clare Bourne

Vere Richards

Chris Michael

Paul Johnson

Reg Thompson

Zoe Duffield

Derick Williams

Sajid Pandore

Terry Cooper

Jamil Foster

Delta Marriott

HATS

Victoria Mutual

am-pm Signature

GCF

Baker Street

Palms Catering

**Sincere thanks to everyone that participated in delivering, music, news, information, advice and interacted with the community on GFM**

The object for which the company is established are to advance the education of the public and in particular the black and ethnic minority and disadvantaged communities in the city of Gloucester and to contribute to their well being by the provision of a community radio

Invest in people that are involved in the organisation, assessing, evaluating and customising training inatives to make it assessable and relevant to GFM presenters / volunteers whenever possible as follows:

Technical production and studio skills  
Interviewing and presenting  
Understanding radio, community and commercial

Provide and play a professional blend of music of black origin, news, information and advice that will ensure audience participation - providing pleasure to the listener and an audience for perspective advertisers

Ensure a minimum of 5 places for presenters / volunteers between the age of 16-25 who can go on and pursue a career in broadcasting and a minimum of 2 female presenters

Endeavour to broadcast programmes that will empower listeners either through music played or information provided for our multi cultural community

Provide helpline numbers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Aids, Careline, Confidential Counselling, Rape crisis Line, Victims of Crime, Sickle Cell and whatever may be deemed necessary to the community

GFM is committed to proving equality of opportunity; therefore our recruitment policy will endeavour to involve people from all ethnic backgrounds.

## **Dear GFM Members**

I'm pleased to be able to write another years report to GFM members, the last year has been a year of transition for GFM

The year started with good news from Ofcom, GFM had been awarded another license for 5 years to broadcast, Music, News, Information & Advice to Empower, Educate & Entertain GFM Listeners.

Securing another 5 licence is something everyone should to be proud off, there are only three radio stations in Gloucester that have a FM license and broadcast worldwide 24/7-365, and GFM is one of them

In many ways the lockdown heightened the need for GFM to update and replace much of the broadcasting equipment some of which was 18 years old

However, securing the funding became a real task in 2020. Unfortunately, only some funding for equipment replacement and repairs was secured and the grant was not released until 2021.

With the grant being smaller than what was applied for, things had to be scaled back, then there were delays in getting the equipment from the manufacturer, and getting the engineer's onsite and with continual problems being reported with the equipment in studio 1 & 2, this period highlighted lots of things within the GFM family good and bad

Various amounts of personal equipment that GFM did not have were being plugged in and plugged out of GFM DJ Mixer and the streaming PC, and incoming presenters were starting programmes late. It was inevitable that things would come to head and it did, something had to be done to remove some of the delays.

The board agreed to purchase its own DJ Controller to try and eliminate some of the delays. Unfortunately, it appeared that GFM buying its own DJ controller left a lot to be desired

It then seemed like there were endless faults being reported about various equipment and the DJ Mixer. However, when it was reported that electric shocks were emanating from GFM DJ controller and that it only happened when one laptop was plugged into GFM equipment, alarm bells rang out loud immediately, this was a serious health & safety matter for GFM

Has a direct result of the report, GFM DJ Controller was removed whilst external professionals and companies were contacted for guidance and written advice.

However, when a thorough check of the DJ mixer and the broadcasting equipment was carried out, the cable from the DJ mixer to the broadcasting

desk had come away from the jack plug, hence why the music was cutting out, This explained why the DJ Mixer was deemed the problem, when in fact it wasn't, the cables had been pulled out and plugged back in so many times, and sometimes even in the wrong inputs in the DJ Mixer

Errol Johnson, Managing Director, Stantex Electronics, responded to my call for help and came to the studio and soldered the cable back onto the jack plug, it was tested and everything was how it should be. This was more proof that the board had to reduce the need for volunteers to plug in and pull out their own equipment from GFM DJ mixer

I'm pleased to report that the DJ Mixer that was loaned to GFM for many years that was deemed the problem was returned to the owner in January 2022 and was in full working order

Many Thanks to Ras Head and Helen Williams aka DJ H who by default became GFM janitor, I will forever be grateful to them. And I must also thank Derick Williams, he never hesitated to plug his laptop into GFM DJ controller when I asked him to test it, his report was the all clear required

It was hoped that there would not be any more faulty equipment reported until the works to refurbish the equipment in studio 1 commenced. This was wishful thinking

Having had all the broadcasting refurbishment works completed, everything appeared to be working how it should, however, one of the channels on gfm DJ Mixer was blown in studio 1.

Unfortunately, it didn't come to light until 4 days later, everyone that broadcast played CD's, or used GFM DJ controller or created and used ENCO playlists

Nevertheless, I was able to trace back to when the problem occurred, it was when someone laptop was plugged into the black box and the laptop wouldn't open, and when it did something occurred that blew one of the channel on GFM new DJ Mixer

As a direct result of this the black box was removed and 4 new cables installed to enable quick visual inspections, as it was deemed the problem might have been inside the black box. There are now two inputs for laptops, tablets & phones and everything is labelled up.

Please bring your own cable from your laptop, tablet or phone to plug into the cables that GFM have installed for you to use

Clearly, damage to GFM broadcasting equipment is beyond the board control, yet it seemed like it was the board fault, it is very much the board wish for everyone to come in and present their show with all of GFM the equipment in

full working order, you are the ones that use the equipment each day and it is your responsibility to ensure that you leave all equipment in full working order for the next presenter on air

Having upgraded and replaced some old equipment there are now 3 mini disc players, 2 CD players, 3 CDJs and other equipment that we hope to sell via eBay to recoup some of the money spent to refurbish studio 1 & 2

However, we are open to realistic offers for some of the equipment, if you would like to see the equipment please email [gfmboard@gloucesterfm.com](mailto:gfmboard@gloucesterfm.com) or phone gfm mobile 07877 423 565 to make arrangements

It had become apparent during lockdown when many volunteers were on "furlough" and when restrictions were eased that some volunteers that used social media to broadcast had become reliant on the number of people that were watching and interacting with them for visual support.

However, it's important that GFM received the numbers of those people, but, despite numerous requests only Gary T & Emma provided the information

Telephone calls, text messages and email to GFM studio had decreased, knowing the number of listeners interacting is important to show potential funders that GFM have listeners and they interact with GFM volunteers, plus the board can see which programme listeners interact with

The use of Facebook "Live" and "Twitch" to broadcast from home became popular with some during and after lockdown. I was aware that some volunteers were broadcasting from home when on "furlough" on other stations but not GFM studio during the lockdown, it was suggested that GFM should consider allowing presenters to do remote broadcasting from their home

I personally have no problem with anyone doing internet radio or broadcasting on Facebook or Twitch from their home on other stations

However, right from the outset of GFM it's been fundamental for presenters in Gloucester to broadcast from GFM studio, and provide training to do so; this is a longstanding funding stream for GFM

Nevertheless, I believe that it is my duty as chair to find out more about broadcasting from home, having previously spent an evening with someone that broadcast from home; I could see and hear that broadcasting on an internet radio station from home is very different to broadcasting from GFM Studio

There were no restrictions on lyrical content, no commercials, and no community information to read, it was straight music, and there were no

studio phone number or email, the only way to communicate was via a chat room

I spoke to others that do remote broadcasting via the internet from home, and there are no rules on what is allowed to be played, presenters play what they want, and provided a phone number for calls and text messages

On one internet station commercials are sent to presenters to play and on others the owners set the computer system to play commercials automatically every 30 minutes to ensure commercials are played on time

And on another there is written information on what can be played, and they are not allowed to advertise theirs and others people's events, and subs are paid

Some miss broadcasting from a studio, they miss the camaraderie of presenters meeting, changing over and getting ready to broadcast from a studio, this is one of the things that helped to coin the phrase GFM family. It is my belief that BBC 1xtra and Capital Extra presenters still broadcast from their studios

Nonetheless, it is accepted that presenters that don't live in Gloucester that express a strong desire to broadcast on GFM remotely that it should be doable

However, to do this additional equipment had to be purchased and changes to ENCO DAD were required; the aim is to have remote broadcasting and we are working toward making this possible for those that live outside Gloucester on GFM Xtra.

Currently, remote broadcasting is done is by three newsreaders, and three presenters, Joey Coyne, Rich Edwards and Roy Medallion. Roy prefers to do pre-recorded show because he does not have to commit to a specific day and time. Caribbean news and the music shows are recorded elsewhere and emailed to GFM via GFM Dropbox and goes straight into the playlist ready to play

Going back many years I use to listen to Solar Radio, I never knew that Solar Radio did the same until former GFM presenter Dave Thorley told me when he hired GFM studio 2 to record shows to send to various radio stations

During the past year training is an area that became contentious, it come to light that some volunteers had received training but it was not sufficient, and some had only received the basic training required to present programmes using CD's, tablet and laptops.

And there are volunteers that want training to use ENCO DAD automated system and would like to use music from GFM library to create and use their own playlist to present their show

This had to be addressed; on behalf of the board I thank Clare Bourne aka DJ Elle B for training Amanda Selassie, Charmaine Mighten and Tony Coopey

Many years ago, GFM had a training manual printed that was given to those that received training, over the years amendment were made but for whatever reason the amended training manual was never printed

Since my return it's been my desire to get GFM training manual revamped to incorporate GFM growth. And include new equipment that's been installed and photos and information that dovetail into a training matrix for each volunteer

It's heart-warming to report that when I asked Clare Bourne aka DJ Elle B for help she never hesitated to say yes. I'm pleased to report that the training manual is in its final stages of checking before it goes to the printers.

And it's been very pleasing how Clare has taken ownership of the changes to GFM training manually, this has allowed me to focus on other matters, it is hoped that everyone will be trained including those that are deemed experienced, all volunteers must go through the training using the manual, it will no longer be acceptable to say I never had the training to do this or that

If it were not for Clare, GFM training manual would not be where it is now, I sincerely thank Clare for her help and support; it has been invaluable

The offer to receive ENCO DAD training is still available, I will set up the training once I have the numbers and know your availability, it is envisaged that the training will be via Zoom

On behalf of the board I wholeheartedly thank everyone of the GFM family that give monthly donations; it is also very pleasing to report that listeners continue to give monthly donations, this money helps to pay GFM monthly running costs and is well received and most appreciated

At last year AGM it was pleasing when Ollie Organ was co-opted to write funding applications for GFM. Over the years writing and submitting bids have been time consuming and there is no guarantee that the funding application will be successful

Having Ollie solely focusing on writing funding bids has enabled me to focus on other things, there were times when things looked bleak, but once Ollie secured the first funding for GFM it was a weight lifted off him and everyone



Ollie and I have worked closed and I know how much time he's dedicated to writing funding applications for GFM. Well done Ollie and thank you for being there whenever I needed help with important documents for GFM well being

Securing funding gets harder each year, and my primary focus is to secure advertising income and encourage businesses and organisation to advertise on GFM, and some have become repeat customers.

GFM can now offer a professional service that is impressive to new and repeat customers, and some have been public service announcements that have been very satisfying

However, advertising can be for one week or months, the income is not guaranteed; I was delighted when the owner of a voiceover company that listened to GFM online contacted me and now makes and gives GFM free commercials to encourage businesses to advertise on GFM.

This is the company that made the Stop Loan Sharks PSA commercials; they were well received by the grant funder.

The customer generally pays for making their own commercials, and sometime GFM pays the company and invoices the client that commissioned the voiceover company to avoid delay in voiceover Company getting paid

Thank you Bro V for the management of GFM commercials, I know and I accept that on many occasions I am a pain in the butt, but you have worked with me to get the commercial on air quickly when advertising is secured at short notice and the customer wants the commercial on air the next day

This is not possible unless Bro V sits in front of the PC and physically inserts the commercial into the playlist, this takes time. It takes 3/4 days before a commercial automatically plays once it's loaded into Enco. Bro V knows the importance of the income and keeping the customer happy that hopefully will become repeat customers, thank you Bro V

It's been very pleasing to see how much money Gloucester Lottery has raised for GFM, at the time of writing this report GFM have 19 members signed up, the aim is to have 50 members, please tell a friend to tell a friend they can win up to 25K for supporting GFM

Thank you to the GFM family that have donated their £25 winning from the Gloucester lottery to GFM

With COVID regulations easing, the money that was available to support charities and voluntary organisation as decreased since the full lockdown was removed, money from the community radio fund is no longer available for running costs, being prudent with grants received gave GFM some breathing space

It was very pleasing when GFM secured Stop Loan Sharks and Glow Wellbeing grants to produce PSA (Public Service Announcements) commercials specially aimed at GFM listeners.

We have also secured a grant from Thriving Communities to deliver GFM 5 day accredited radio production training to volunteers and people from the community

During the past year there were only two fundraising events, although the plan was for three

Sadly due to a COVID outbreak the summer party planned at Baker Street had to be cancelled, it was not possible to reschedule the party because some of the presenters that would have played had other commitments booked, Thank you to everyone that was willing to play at GFM Summer Party

This year GFM Award & Fundraising Dinner & Dance turned out to be the biggest Fundraising Dinner & Dance so far. However, things looked very bleak with COVID still causing concern for those that normally attend, so much so that two weeks before the event, cancelling the event was discussed

On behalf of the board I sincerely thank Diamonds & Juliet's Corner for the support given to GFM by selling the tickets, in the end when the target number was reached we were getting calls from people wanting to buy tickets

Thank you to Sharon Richardson, Palms Catering Services for the support given to GFM by working with Chef at Delta Marriot Cheltenham Chase Hotel

I must personally thank GFM community Link Coordinator for the commitment and the desire to make this annual event take place, the works that I have witnessed when organising this event for GFM that has somehow fallen into her remit, beggar's belief, securing raffle prizes, communicating with the hotel, Jamaican High Commission, potential sponsors, local dignitaries and organisation is priceless to GFM, and I enjoy working with her and hosting this event

Thank you to every one of the GFM family that came to support the event, it was good to see so many of you, there are two things that are still etched in my mind, Desmond Williams proposing to his partner and Lil Soup face when her name was announced. Lil Soup impact at GFM and with listeners warranted recognition and hopefully encouragement to continue

On behalf of the board I thank Michelle Morgan aka Lady M for introducing Lil Soup to GFM listeners, we are very proud of her

Thank you also to Tyler Roberts for donating his signed shirt for auction to raise funds for GFM, we are indebted to Tyler for the support that he has

given GFM, I'm very proud of Tyler and the way that he has never forgotten city where he was born

Please put in your diary this year GFM Awards & Fundraising Dinner & Dance will be on Saturday 8 October @ Delta Marriott

When GFM events coordinator was planning GFM Christmas party, some of those approached to play already had a booking

It transpired that there was a launch party for an internet station in Gloucester on the same night as GFM Christmas party that presenters that had joined the internet station were playing at

There are always lots of Christmas events in December to choose from and there was also a surprise birthday party on the same night, this is one of the downsides of having a Christmas party

However, having been given the use of Baker Street for free, the aim was for GFM Christmas party to be a social with music and make it free to come in, I'm told the bar staff was busy and the owner was happy

On behalf of the board, I must thank the owner Ian; Ian also gave GFM raffle prizes for GFM Awards & Fundraising Dinner & Dance, and for offering the use Baker Street for free whenever GFM held an event at Baker Street

And special thank you also to Mike Sutherland aka Fad Dige GFM Event Coordinator for organising the Summer Party and GFM Christmas Party, Well Done Mike, I know that it's been a learning curve for you

During the last year GFM has worked work closer with various department within NHS Gloucestershire, I have used lots of energy trying to secure a service level agreement, and I'm pleased with how things have progressed

It is very much my desire for there to be a gospel concert put on by GFM gospel family in 2022, the churches have steadfastly supported GFM since GFM first broadcast in October 2000, and I believe we need to give thanks and praise for life and remember, Father Rue, aka Rudolph Vernon, Jerry Hipkiss and Paul Houldley aka Gabba and those that have lost loved ones in the GFM family due to COVID

In the past year there have been two programmes that the board retired the programmes names. It was felt that the burden of having to present the show like it was in the original format could be over bearing, by retiring the names those that presented the shows could take a step back, receive more training requested and come back with a new name that reflected what they wanted to broadcast to the community

I'm pleased to report that on the last Saturday of each month, one of the shows is now called Twice As Nice. And the programme features news, information & advice, and is presented by Amanda, Becki, Charmaine & Wayne

The other show retired is the Sports Café; sadly, despite my efforts to convey a meeting and to give listeners and the board's feedback and agree how best to move forward, I've not had a response

I was very happy when Mr Mac came to see me at my home and told me that he wanted to present Sports Cafe and that he would take responsibility for the show, but would need training and support

Up until that point no one from the previous Sports Cafe had showed any interest in presenting Sport Café

Mr Mac's aim was to contact all the former punters and update me accordingly; everyone that is a Sports Café punter must sign GFM V&P and understand that GFM is accountable to Ofcom for what they say whilst on air

There are many things that changed following the first and only meeting, and much could be written. However, it's my belief that sometime there are some things that one has to accept and to move on. It was always going to be a big task following in Mutsa Muzenda aka Bantu footsteps for anyone

No one has successfully done so in my opinion, Mutsa was the master of playing devil's advocate and staying neutral on whatever sport topic was being discussed, it appeared that trying to present Sports Cafe in the same way was more than was envisaged; no matter how much there is a desire to present the show

Nevertheless, on behalf of the board I sincerely thank Mr Mac for coming to see me and for stepping up to the plate when no one else did

I must commend Tony Coopey aka TC, he did not miss show last year, Joey Coyne never missed one either, well done to the Wobbly Table Crew, Angela, Mario, Jay & Nicole, Elder Saunders, Pastor Tremon Jackson and Pastor Charles Campbell for making Family Time unique to GFM and its listeners

Sister Sylvia has gone from strength to strength and Rev Babs became like Duracell batteries and kept going on and on to keep Saturday morning Gospel Shows live, thank you Hazel G for stepping up when it was evident GFM needed help and present some wonderful shows whenever she presented any show

This year as previously mentioned, was the year of transition for GFM, it was accepted right from the outset that GFM will never meet everyone's desire; this and equipment problems I believe led to some leaving GFM

GFM will never be solely a music station; Ofcom awarded GFM a community radio license to broadcast 70% music and 30% news, information & advice to the community

I sincerely wish everyone well that left GFM during the last year, I know that when you have a desire to reach your goal that along the way things have to change, but what is pleasing to know is that no matter what lies ahead for those that left is that GFM has been a part on their journey

On behalf of the board I sincerely thank Gary Thomas, Emma White, Daniel Payne, Heather Hughes, and Jowena Riley for the time that they were able to give to GFM and I hope that they achieve what they aspire to achieve

Some volunteers have taken time away from GFM indefinitely and some have returned, and this is pleasing. There are only a few that have left GFM that I would not ask to present on GFM again having asked them more than once; if they would like to be a volunteer presenter again they will have to contact GFM, some presenters have longevity and some don't, not matter how famous they think they have become

It was very pleasing when Eric D and Ras Head returned after long term sickness

Many thanks to Paul Watson aka Science for presenting Rice & Pea's when asked, it was Paul and Glen Brown that gave Simme and I the opportunity to join Vibes FM and learn about community radio in Gloucester

And it was very, very pleasing when Alan Alexander aka Alan A came back to present shows on Bank Holidays and during the Christmas period

This year it's been gratifying to welcome new presenters, Lianhie, Kail, Emma and Future Me Gloucestershire to the Young People Show rota, Naides, Yazzy B, Angel Doll, DJ AJ, Tony Coopey, Wayne Daley, Pastor Tremon Jackson and Will Mendoza to the GFM family

On behalf of the board I thank GFM Community Link Coordinator for ensuring GFM continued to deliver news, information & advice and train new Community Link Show presenters and young persons that came forward, and for going the extra mile for GFM on numerous occasions

Also on behalf of the board I thank GFM news team, Charles Campbell, Stephen Moore, Jenny Batchelor & Hazel Golden, what they do is invaluable for the wellbeing of GFM. Stephen, Jenny and Hazel have utilised the remote facility well to ensure Caribbean news is on air ready to broadcast Monday to Friday

Many thanks to GFM music team, Chris Michael, Derick Williams, Mike Sutherland and Vere Richards, for keeping RNB, Hip Hop, UK Soundz, Reggae & Gospel current and up-to-date in GFM library

It is enjoyable to hear GFM music mixes when in automation; particularly how much new music is being played. Thank you to Helen Williams aka DJ H and Carol Francis for supporting the music team

And I must give a special, special thank you to Vere and Annette Richards for the way that they have made the bereavement notice's integral information broadcast for families in the community, and Hazel Golden for helping as and when required.

It was very gratifying when listeners that are not of colour contacted GFM to have their bereavement announced on GFM

Thank you to Brian Thompson aka BT and Marc Moyse for running the desk for GFM listeners that bring their tunes to play in My Tunes @ 12pm on Sundays. Sometimes Marc is in the studio twice on Sundays' when he presents Vintage Soul Show @ 4pm. What Brian & Marc do is most appreciated and I know listeners appreciate their help and support

Holly Steele has continued to manage GFM instagram, thank you for what you do on behalf of GFM, the way you stepped up to the plate to get this up and running and manage it, your desire to help GFM is treasured

Some of you might not know that GFM has its own YouTube channel and it was set up by Sajid Pandore in 2013. Sajid is the person that created GFM iPhone app that was cancelled because it was an annual expenditure that was deemed not value for money by previous management. Sajid replaced two second hand PC's after it came to light the old ones were not windows 10

One of them was the PC for GFM webcams, whilst installing and configuring the new PC Sajid and talked about "live" streaming and using GFM YouTube to do "live" streams instead of pictures that are updated every 10 seconds.

Duncan Knowles @ net9design suggested we use GFM YouTube to do "live" streaming in December 2021, but due to unforeseen circumstances this was put on hold in December

In January 2022 Sajid set up GFM YouTube to "live" stream and it was trailed, there was problem with the sound and a "live" feed direct from the desk had to be installed, this was done, and we now have the option to "live" stream as and when we want or use the webcams

However, before we commence using the "live" stream regularly GFM needs to have 1K subscribers to GFM YouTube. The aim is to monetize and utilise

GFM YouTube more and upload presenter's shows and music videos from singers and MC's in Gloucester and the UK

Please log on GFM website and click on GFM YouTube icon, like and subscribe and tell a friend to tell a friend to do the same

On behalf of the board I sincerely thank Sajid for answering my call for help with the webcams and setting up the "live" streaming and installing the webcam and Netlog PC in studio 2. Sajid left GFM many years ago, but he has never hesitated to help and give good advice whenever I've asked him to help GFM

This year I was officially informed that GFM will have to find somewhere else to site its transmitter and aerials, it's anticipated that they will have to be moved within the next 18 months to 2 years. Without doubt finding another site similar or better be could be something that decide GFM future in 2022

I have not heard anything from The Trust Centre landlord Mr Jaffa about the refurbishment of The Trust Centre, but it appears that work is about to commence with scaffolding being put up around the building, I will update as and when I know more

I know that over the years some have said that GFM should move, and suggested various buildings, I have yet see one that will enable GFM to site its aerial as high as it is now at The Trust Centre and allows GFM to operate the way it does, logistically GFM is in the heart of the community it set out to serve

Moving into other studios gives GFM the opportunity to revamp studio 1 and studio 2; I think it's fair to say that GFM has grown since commencing full time broadcasting in 2006

It is still very much by belief that GFM sits in a unique position within the radio market place in Gloucester; GFM was given its license to broadcast Urban Music, Empower, Educate & Entertain listeners that have shown time and time again that they support GFM emotionally, physically and financially

I also believe that no other radio station on FM in Gloucester plays such a diverse selection of urban music and broadcast news, information & advice in Gloucester like GFM

Currently there are only **3** radio stations in Gloucester that have been awarded an FM license by Ofcom and broadcast online

They are Heart FM, BBC Radio Gloucestershire and Gloucester FM 96.6; please search the internet for radio stations in Gloucester, its interesting what comes up

However, GFM have been approached on two occasions to be part of bids for DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) license in this area, but for various reason they did not progress. Because of this I spoke to Donald @ Ujima Radio in Bristol and he gave me the number of a person in Bristol that was preparing a bid in Bristol that included Ujima  
Apparently it is good to include community radio stations in the bids for DAB licenses for the new tier of UK small-scale DAB multiplexes.

Currently the only other community radio stations in the county are Radio Winchcombe in Cheltenham and Dean Radio in the Forest of Dean. I'm not aware of any DAB licenses for this area, but hopefully when it is, GFM will be in a position to partner with the company bidding for the DAB license

GFM is now into its 22 year of broadcasting and I am delighted to inform you that God willing GFM will broadcast "live" on FM & Internet on Sunday 7 August from Gloucester Park to coincide with Glosjam Jamaica 60 independence celebrations, with presenters playing music from 1962 up to now, hopefully from 12pm-4pm

On 6 October 2021, GFM celebrated 21 years of broadcasting; this was a proud moment for Carol, Simme, Paul and I, when we came together to set up the steering group for GFM in 1999, we never envisaged that GFM would become an integral part of the community the way it has

Carol, Tony and I spent 5 years after the first broadcast in 2000, traveling up and down the UK to radio exhibitions and community radio conferences to gain the knowledge required to run a full time community radio station, so much so that I was asked to speak at one of the conferences in Sheffield on how to "apply for and run a 28 day RSL broadcast".

We made many friends that are still friends of GFM, I believe ensuring that GFM became a member of the community radio / media association is one the best things I've done for GFM

I was delighted when Richard Butlin, Sonifex Sales Manager Europe, came to GFM in October to see the new desk and the work done in studio 1 & 2. It was with Richard help that I was able use the reduce grant to carry out most of the work required in studio 1 & 2. Richard is one of those that Carol and I met in Manchester at a Community Radio Conference in 2003

It was pleasing to welcome back Baroness Dido Harding to GFM, Dido has visited GFM previously and expressed her desire to come to GFM again when she was in Gloucester. Many thanks to Bren McInerney for facilitating the visit and Helen Williams for interacting with Dido in the studio and making her feel welcome

Unfortunately, GFM organisational review meeting arranged in December had to be cancelled due to illness. However, a meeting took place in January and



the board is working to toward some changes that can be done reasonable quickly, this being to have one Facebook and link post on Facebook to twitter and instgram and make changes to GFM website and the programme bio.

Currently, GFM is seeking someone to manage GFM social media and website. Many, many, thanks to Ollie Organ and Holly Steele for leading with the changes, the works Ollie and Holly have been doing for GFM is most welcome and appreciated.

It should now be very obvious and of concern to everyone that GFM needs more committed presenters, the most urgent being Breakfast & Drive Time presenters. Right from the birth of GFM the importance of being "live" throughout the day has been of the utmost importance and the most difficult to fill because most volunteers work during the day.

However, what has now become a big problem is presenter absence at short notice, we fully accept that none of us plan to be sick or to have an emergency, but when it's not either, it does not reflect well on the presenter and GFM, particularly when there is a programme promo being played.

The programme schedule and web schedule have to be changed quickly, generally changing the studio schedule is not a problem, but the web schedule can and removing the programme promo is.

I accept that we are all volunteers, but only you know when you are available and when you are not on air to present another show, what is particularly pleasing is when someone knows that no one is "live" on air and come forward and say I will present the show. I'm not going to embarrass the person, but I must say publicly thank you for being so proactive.

Nevertheless, it's important that I say a big thank you to those that have sought cover when they are not available and those that have covered, it makes such a difference being "live" when listeners are expecting to hear someone "live", and sometime listeners phone in to ask about the presenters welfare.

The continual absence of "live" presenters will have a detrimental effect on the marketability of GFM, not having enough volunteers to deliver a full evening and weekend broadcast in my opinion is not good enough for the sustainability of GFM.

Moving forward it is very much desire to oversee a new management & volunteer's structure. Securing money to permanently employ a station manager is like a needle in a haystack.

It is very much my belief that there needs to be a senior group of volunteers that are committed to working with the board to manage GFM daily.

operations that are "Enco" trained and can train new volunteers, and work in unison with GFM Community Link Coordinator

However, it must continue to be the board responsibility to secure money to pay GFM monthly running costs, equipment repairs, income generation through advertising and programme sponsorship. The board role must be more strategic and business focus and work alongside volunteers that can interact with each other, GFM volunteer's and will complete tasks on time

The board is seeking an experienced Administrator and to co-opt an Assistant Company Secretary, everyone elected to the board becomes a GFM "Ambassador", just like GFM Community Link Coordinator and every volunteer representing the GFM brand, Gloucestershire longest running community radio station

It is my opinion based on the number of people that set up GFM steering group that GFM board should consist of people that have proven managerial experience with additional support as and when required that are focused on running a voluntary run business, for example, Chairperson, Company Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, and Events Coordinator

It is important I reiterate that each person elected to the board must understand and accept that he or she will be responsible for running a voluntary business and must have the commitment and desire to oversee and manage the strategic growth and the operational development of GFM and can work within timescales and can interact with each other, volunteers, presenters, listeners & businesses accordingly

Board members must be innovative and understand the need to embrace the whole community and must be seen out and about in Gloucester and beyond, this is how I have feedback is received from GFM listeners

I am proud to be in the chair of GFM in what was a special anniversary year for GFM, but I would not have been able to keep GFM on air without those that have answered my many calls when I've called for help

Being the chair is not about me doing everything, there have been so many people that helped along the way, and I will forever be grateful for their help, support and advice given to me since 1999

Finally, I wholeheartedly thank all the listeners that have supported GFM fundraising events and monetary appeals, and those that have tuned in on FM and the internet

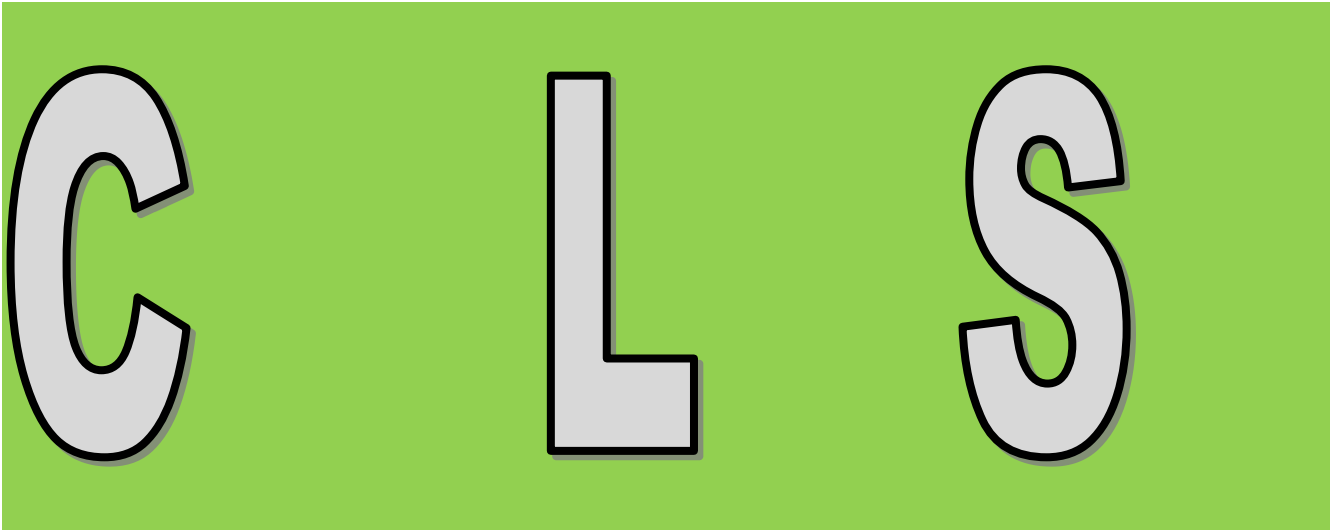
And all the listeners and volunteer presenters that continue to give monthly financial donations and gifts to the GFM family, sponsors and advertisers, and GFM volunteers past and present for the help and support given to me and GFM and wish everyone the best of whatever they wish for

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. C. Fimmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "F".

Chairperson





**Community**

**Link**

**Show**

## **Report November 2020 - October 2021**

The past year continued as difficult as the last with still a shortage of volunteers, I have continued doing a lot of other things around the station. For example making sure presenters programme promos are recorded and played at the right time. At this point can I ask any presenter who is in a monthly rota and have not recorded a promo and would like one please let me know or if you want to update your promo.COVID19 stayed with us.

### **Community Link Crew: (CLC)**

We have had new members join as well as members leaving, so it is easier to say who is presently volunteering. At present the CLC is, Holly Steel and Tay Mulla they present the Friday Show. There are No young people volunteering. Therefore from December 2020 until April 2021 there was no Yong people show on GFM. The Young people show volunteers are as follows: Llahnie Mae Whitlock, one month then Freya Joyce, Bethany Barr, Huw Barlow-Kay Martha Kelsey; Benjamin Harwood, Aiden Collins Morgan Phelps, Bethan Lewis and Maria Jerez Balan they called themselves the Future Me Crew presented the other month. They rotated between themselves when it was their month.

Family Time: Pastor Charles Campbell went on a 3 months sabbatical. Angela, Mario & Family, Pastor Jackson joined the team. The Family Time team are: Elder Saunders, Angela, Mario & Family, Pastor Jackson and Pastor Charles when he returns from his sabbatical.

Community Link Show Mondays and Tuesdays: Hazel Golden gave up volunteering on CLS Mondays and Tuesdays but would cover if required. In March2021 Heather Hughes joined the team and started presenting in May she was really put to the test as presenter, when she presented her second show on her own when there was no ENCO system and the office/second studio door would not unlock, therefore she was unable to get the headphones and connections to be able to play music from her phone. This meant she had to talk continually for 45 minutes until ENCO was fixed. I am sure you will agree she done exceptionally well. However Heather's University time table changed in September which meant she could no longer volunteer for GFM. The CLS team: Carol Francis, Jowena Riley who joined July 2021. The Community Link Show continues to broadcast interviews and cover a range of topics.

## News Team:

Again as with the CLS the news team have had new volunteers join as well as volunteers leave. The local news is taken from BBC Radio Gloucestershire and works quite well most of the time. GFM now only need to source the Caribbean news. At present there are four people covering the Caribbean news for GFM, However GFM is still looking for more volunteer as Hazel covers two days. The news team are: Pastor Charles Campbell, Stephen Moore, Hazel Golden and Jenny Batchelor who joined July 2021

## Training:

There was no accredited training delivered this year. However, I still delivered internal training with volunteers.

## Funding Grants:

The Community Link Coordinator post received funding to continue from the Big Lottery.

The Police Commissioner's Fund ends March 2022

## Misalliances:

COVID19 meant some volunteers went into self isolation meaning other volunteers covering and more shows in mix.

I continued to do more telephone interviews and received trained up to carry out zoom interviews and edit for audio, as people were not comfortable coming into the studio.

Some Meetings I attend most via zoom, Jayne Dyer Young People Becoming Adults Lead with regards getting more young people to volunteer, Helen Hicks cancer support service on how they can work with GFM, Sydney Walsh, from NHS Gloucestershire CCG about work that being done around health inequalities, Gloucester City Commission to review race relations and Adele from GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in regards a programme on CLS in regards people with no status and COVID vaccinations.

I was invited to the Gloucester rotary club as a speaker on GFM.

Ken Goodwin from ITV's West Country news contacted me asking if I could help him with regards doing some news on the BAME and the COVID19 Vaccine in Gloucester. He came down Monday 8th February and we did the filming which was broadcasted on TV Tuesday 9th February which was good promotion for GFM. <https://we.tl/t-KmUZfSgaWx>

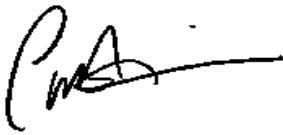
The Police Commissioner's Fund asked for groups who have received funding to submit a video for their media project on how Groups have overcome the challenges of 2020, thus allowing them to promote GFM's work to a wider audience. So I with the help of Jamil Foster made a video and sent in. <https://youtu.be/FAmydFE7Rb8>

The COVID restrictions at the local schools were not allowing visitors into the schools therefore I was unable to go into the schools and decided to continue to attract young people to volunteer made a recruitment video with Holly, which I sent round the schools. The video can be seen on GFM's you tube Channel.

GFM what's On Folder: The folder is updated on a Fridays afternoon and not updated again until the following Monday. Therefore I kindly ask weekend presenters to check before reading out and cross out any that is out of date. Please note **All presenters** should be reading out the information from the what's on folder, those who present a music show should read the places to party.

As GFM go into 2022 Presenters and volunteers who are committed is required for the Community Link Show and the News Team. I will continue to apply for funding and promote

GFM the best I can, and as members of GFM you too can help by promoting GFM in your place of work on your social networks encourage friends, work colleague and family to volunteer and encourage business to advertise with GFM and help to keep GFM broadcasting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Francis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carol Francis (Mrs)

Community Link Coordinator

