



Well, it's old, it's old, and you can, the bits peel off the walls and fall down just to remind you it is old and it's getting older, but it's been recovered.

When I was a young man taking my O Levels, history was just a pain. In fact, with the arrogance of youth I decided for my O levels I wouldn't remember any dates, memorise any dates. Strangely enough, I failed the exam. But as I got older, history becomes more important and it's more interesting.

St Michael's Tower is all that's left of a church, St Michael's, which has been in existence on this site for since 1060. The rest of the church was demolished in the 1950s, but the tower remains. It is now at present the headquarters of the Civic Trust, where we provide people with teas and coffees and encourage them to look around Gloucester and see the great heritage that we have.

When we came to Gloucester of course we were very interested to see the history of things that were going on here, historical things and the heritage that Gloucester had and got really interested. But then we went away and when we came back in retirement I thought, well, you know, let's get more involved.

So I joined the Civic Trust, trained as a tour guide, and now I coordinate the heritage open days and do all sorts of other things. And very much got my feet under the carpet. No, that's not right. Under the table at Gloucester and am reluctant to leave!

Paul Drinkwater, Gloucester Civic Trust

## St Michael's Tower