**THE WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST**

Registered charity no. 1102882

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020**

**Introduction**

Each year, the trustees of the charity are required to approve an annual report and accounts prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This document, which must be made available to the public, covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Its purpose is to review the charity’s activities against the charity’s aims and objectives. Specifically, it contains information regarding the charity’s trustees and their appointment, constitution, and financial affairs. It also includes a statement of the charity’s public benefit.

**Charity name**

The Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust

**Charity registered no.**

1102882

**Trustees**

The Trust’s constitution, powers and the way it operates are set out in the Deed dated 29 November 2002, as amended on 16 October 2013, 23 October 2017 and 23 July 2018. The Deed stipulates a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 trustees, two of whom are nominated by Wiltshire Council (WC), and one by the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS).

Those trustees appointed upon nomination from other organisations serve until the latter nominate replacements. The remaining trustees serve for a four-year term at the end of which they are eligible to be re-appointed.

During the period to which this report relates, the following trustees held office. Except where otherwise stated below, the trustees served throughout the whole of the period.

Mrs R Addington

Mrs G Alder

Mr J d’Arcy

Mrs M Barnett

Mr C Caswill

Mrs T Dallaway (from 28 October 2019)

Prof M Hicks (until 28 October 2019)

Mr M Hodges

Mr J Holden

Mrs V Landell-Mills (until 28 October 2019)

Mr D Moss

Mr C Newbury (until 10 June 2019)

Mr W A Perry (nominee of WANHS)

Mr M Stone

Cllr I Thorn (nominee of Wiltshire Council, appointed 23 October 2017)

Cllr S Wheeler (nominee of Wiltshire Council)

Mr H Wright (from 10 June 2019)

Mr D Moss held the position of Chairman and Mr M Hodges held that of Vice-Chairman for the whole of the period.

**Hon. officers**

The Treasurer and Secretary of the Trust were Mrs T Dallaway and Mr H Wright respectively (Mr Wright from 10 June 2019). Both are trustees. Both Treasurer and Secretary are honorary positions.

**Offices**

As it neither owns nor leases any premises, the Trust has no office of its own. During the year, Trustees’ meetings were held at the Wiltshire Museum by courtesy of WANHS, and at The Old Vicarage, Edington by courtesy of Mr John d’Arcy. Correspondence may be addressed to the Secretary, whose postal address is 5 The Paddock, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1FN.

The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham kindly provides facilities for researchers and others engaged on Trust business, and as a depository for the Trust’s official records.

**Objectives, public benefit and review of activity**

As set out in the Deed previously referred to, the purpose (“object”) of the Trust is “to apply such monies, investments and property as the Trustees receive in their capacity as Trustees ... for the research, preparation and writing of the Victoria County History of Wiltshire”.

The Victoria County History (VCH) was established in 1899 to publish a history of every community in England. Working from original documents and extensive fieldwork, professional historians produce a comprehensive history of each parish, including its physical features, ways of life, economic activity, transport, local government, key institutions and buildings, courts and leisure activities. The production of the histories is under the aegis and technical supervision of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

Wiltshire is among the leading counties with 18 completed volumes to date. Work commenced in 1947 with financial support from local authorities (and for nine years, the University of the West of England). Following restrictions on spending by local and public authorities, the Trust undertook from 2013 to raise funds for future research and publications.

The Trust has responsibility for commissioning the historical research for future volumes. During the year it has been able to let research contracts on the volume covering the Chippenham area (volume 20) and a first contract on a volume covering the Alderbury area (volume 21).

In addition, the Trust has been keen to support the work being undertaken by the Institute of Historical Research to complete Vol. 19 (Mere and neighbouring parishes) and has made a financial commitment to it.

Completed volumes of the VCH form a definitive record of Wiltshire’s history. They are a resource for current and future generations of historians, both professional and amateur, and the public at large. As such, it is the trustees’ belief that the work of the Trust is for the “public benefit”, the criterion used by the Charity Commission to assess charitable status.

**Fund-raising**

There continue to be two principal strands to the Trust’s fund-raising. First, a “Friends of the Wiltshire VCH”, open to all on payment of an annual subscription. Second and very much linked to the first, a programme of one-off events most of which are open to the public at large. Mrs G Alder (a trustee) assisted with the administration of the Friends, associated activities and newsletter during the year to which this report relates.

Fund-raising is crucial to the ability of the Trust to progress work on the VCH volumes. A small group of trustees meets regularly to consider ways of raising funds and to review the outcomes. A special effort was made this year, led by the President, Mr Michael Wade, to raise sufficient funds to start work on Volume 21 (Alderbury and neighbouring parishes) and, as already mentioned, a first contract for research for this volume has now been let and work is underway..

**Commissioning**

As demonstrated in the accounts which follow, the funds available to the Trust have enabled work on volume 20 to be progressed and for work on volume 21 to be started, marks of the Trust’s success in meeting its aims and objectives. Subject to strategic approval by the trustees as a whole, this aspect of the Trust’s work is overseen by a Project Group with advice from consultant editors and an academic adviser.

It is important that the Trust has funds to meet known commitments. Trustees have an approved policy of maintaining sufficient funds to meet the full costs of all known commitments plus a working reserve of £2000.

This report was approved by the trustees on [19 October 2020].

[signed] David Moss

Chairman

**Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust**

**Accounts for year ending 31 March 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income and Expenditure account | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | *2019/20* |  | *2018/19* |
|  |  |  | *£* |  | *£* |
| Income |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Membership fees | |  | *1,609* |  | *1,445* |
| Other Donations | |  | *47,659* |  | *11,717* |
| Interest on COIF account | | | *183* |  | *86* |
| Tax relief (gift aid) | |  | *961* |  | *1,240* |
| Income from events | |  | *4,233* |  | *3,500* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | *54,645* |  | *17,988* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenditure | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Administration & miscellaneous | | | *526* |  | *1,320* |
| Volume 19 production | | | *0* |  | *0* |
| Volume 20 production | | | *16,675* |  | *10,825* |
| Volume 21 production | | | *3,000* |  | *500* |
| Bremhill project | |  | *6,520* |  |  |
| Funds generation costs | | | *0* |  | *64* |
| Events costs | |  | *1,535* |  | *728* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | *28,256* |  | *13,437* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Excess of income over expenditure | | | *26,390* |  | *4,551* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance sheet as at: | |  | *31/03/2020* |  | *31/03/2019* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current assets | |  | *£* |  | *£* |
| NatWest current account | | | *20,031* |  | *15,109* |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund | | | *33,179* |  | *22,995* |
| CAF |  |  | *11,285* |  | *0* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | *64,494* |  | *38,104* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current Liabilities | |  |  |  |  |
| Volume 20 contracts awarded and outstanding | | | *8,400* |  | *20,975* |
| Volume 19 contribution promised to VCH central | | | *2,000* |  | *2,000* |
| Kingtons Fund | |  | *2,769* |  | *2,769* |
| Volume 21 contracts limited by 1-year break clause | | | *12,000* |  | *0* |
| Reserved for Bremhill project | | | *19,915* |  | *5,778* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total (excluding basic reserves) | | | *45,084* |  | *31,522* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net unallocated assets | | | *19,410* |  | *6,582* |