

THE WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST
Registered charity no. 1102882

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021**

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 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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, 23 July 2018 and 10 June 2019. The Deed stipulates a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 20 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
Mr M Hodges
Mr J Holden
Mr D Moss
Mr W A Perry (nominee of WANHS)
Mr M Stone
Cllr I Thorn (nominee of Wiltshire Council)
Cllr S Wheeler (nominee of Wiltshire Council)
Mr H Wright

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. 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 are usually held at the Wiltshire Museum by courtesy of WANHS, but during 2020-21 restrictions flowing from the Covid 19 pandemic meant that meetings were held virtually via Zoom. 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 work has continued on research contracts for the volume covering the Chippenham area (volume 20) and on a first contract for 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.

Commissioning

As demonstrated in the accounts which follow, the funds available to the Trust have enabled work on volumes 20 and 21 to be progressed, 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. During 2020-21 restrictions flowing from the Covid 19 pandemic have made physical access to archive material difficult; as a result some research work has had to be re-scheduled but momentum was largely maintained and any lost time has since been made up.

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 8 October 2021.

[signed] David Moss
Chairman

Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust Accounts for year ending 31 March 2021

Income and Expenditure account

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Income		
Membership fees	1,545	1,609
Other Donations	15,692	47,659
Interest on COIF account	39	183
Bremhill	6,400	961
Income from events	0	4,233
Total	23,677	54,645
Expenditure		
Administration & miscellaneous	2,861	526
Volume 19 production	0	0
Volume 20 production	7,800	16,675
Volume 21 production	9,000	3,000
Bremhill project	15,371	6,520
Funds generation costs	0	0
Kingstons	250	
Events costs	0	1,535
Total	35,282	28,256
Excess of income over expenditure (exc Bremhill)	-11,605	26,390

Balance sheet as at:	YTD	31/3/20
Current assets	£	£
NatWest current account	10,705	20,031
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	33,218	33,179
CAF	8,966	11,285
Total	<u>52,889</u>	<u>64,494</u>
Current Liabilities		
Volume 20 contracts awarded and outstanding	9,600	8,400
Volume 19 contribution promised to VCH central	2,000	2,000
Kingtons Fund	0	2,769
Volume 21 reserves	17,015	12,000
Reserved for Bremhill project	10,944	19,915
Website development	400	
General	2,000	
Sundry	500	
Total (excluding basic reserves)	<u>42,459</u>	<u>45,084</u>
Net unallocated assets	<u>10,430</u>	<u>19,410</u>

