



Work continues despite Co-vid

Work on Derbyshire VCH has not stopped, despite restrictions on research.

Even during the present difficult times, due to lock-downs, restrictions on accessing library and archive services, our county editor has continued to undertake preparation of text for publication.

Unfortunately, our Chesterfield research group have not been able to meet since March, with research slips remaining in Chesterfield Library, with access limited.

Our County Editor, Philip Riden comments: 'It has been very difficult to complete various strands of research, particularly as Derbyshire Record Office and The National Archives have been closed for long periods, with restricted access. Despite this I have made some progress with bringing various strands of research together into a new publication on Hasland. This will be in the same style as our well-received 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses' book, itself in the same style as the VCH 'big red books'.

Some work has also been carried out on-line, mainly using the digital resources available at The National Archives. The British Newspaper website has also been of great assistance. There is, however, a limit to this on-line resource. 'We still rely on both primary and secondary source examination and note taking. The majority of this is not available on the internet. This proves the continued relevance of VCH. We examine sources that aren't readily available, making sense of sometimes disparate evidence and then make it available,' comments Philip.

The lock-down has enabled the Trust to explore some new ways of publicising its activities, including starting a Facebook page.

Our Chairman Lyn Pardo Roques adds; 'These are obviously very difficult times. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your continued support for a project that is producing results and will continue to do so, with your help. We all hope that all our members and their families will keep safe over these times'.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

We have opened a Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust Facebook page.

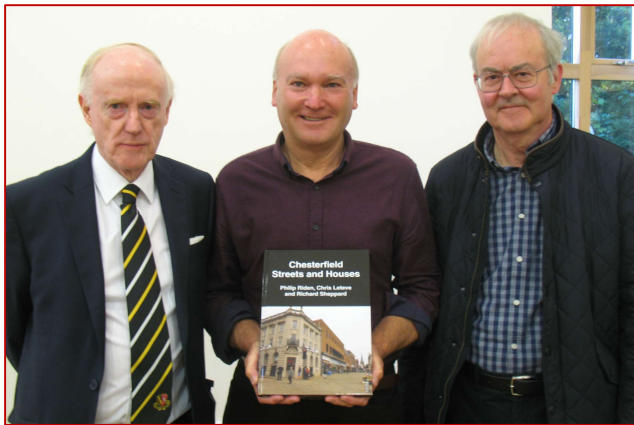
The page, only launched in mid-October, is designed to carry news and insight into the work of VCH in the county. The first three posts, by our publicity officer Philip Cousins, were about the Oxcroft settlement; the so-called 'Georgian' terrace on Saltergate Chesterfield, actually an early Victorian build and Coalite at Bolsover. Information was gleaned from our Explore website and Derbyshire volume III for the Oxcroft and Coalite posts and *Chesterfield Streets and Houses* for the Saltergate article.

Comments Philip Cousins; 'We have taken the opportunity to look again at how we communicate with not only our supporters but others. The lack of a newsletter has been a missing link – now restored, but Facebook gives another opportunity to reach you and others.'

It is early days with our Facebook page, which we also want to 'advertise' by an occasional 'tweet', but we hope you will give our page a look and 'follow' it. This will mean that you will receive the latest posts. We hope to post something of interest at least every week, but the page will not replace this newsletter. Let us know what you think by commenting via the page, which you can do if you are a signed-up member of Facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireVCH>



Our 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses' book launch, held on 16 May 2019, was a great success. Our next publication, due in the new year, will feature Hasland. L-R, Philip Riden, Chris Lefeve and Richard Shepherd at the book launch.

Publications progress update

Our county editor writes

When it became clear that Chesterfield Library was about to close (although I had no idea the local collection would remain inaccessible for so long) I brought home all the Hasland material in the hope of completing a draft parish history suitable for publication. I could not bring all the Chesterfield material - there is simply too much of it. Since then I have finished drafting the text and begun to assemble maps and pictures. As is customary in VCH publications, there will be two maps of the entire parish (one showing the layout before about 1800 and the other the position c.1914) and facsimile extracts from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of c.1920 of the built-up areas. Because until 19th-century boundary changes the township (later civil parish) of Hasland included not just what people think of as Hasland today but also Corbriggs and Winsick, Grassmoor, Birdholme and the St Augustine's end of Boythorpe, there will be three of these facsimiles (Hasland, Grassmoor and Birdholme). Photographs from all three parts of the parish will also feature.

I am hoping to get the book off to the printer during November. Whether it comes out before Christmas depends largely on the printer's workload but as soon as it is ready, we will send a free copy to all our members. The book will be uniform with *Chesterfield Streets and Houses*, i.e. hardback A4. I hope this will be the first of a series of similar books on the townships making up the historic parish of Chesterfield but progress will depend on how soon full access to the library local studies collection is restored, and both The National Archives and the local record offices go back to normal working.

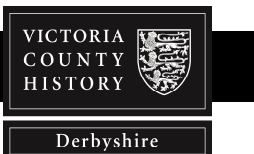
'Streets and houses'

Have you received yours?

All members should have received (some time ago) their free copy of *Chesterfield Streets and Houses* and (rather further back) a copy of *A History of Chesterfield Grammar School*, but it is possible a few have slipped through the net, for which we apologise. If anyone is missing either book, please get in touch with our county editor who will send one or both to you. You can contact him at philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk or phone 01246 554026.

Derbyshire VCH Contacts

President: The Duke of Devonshire, KVCO, CBE, DL.
Chairman: Lyn Pardo Roques. Email: chairman@derbyshirevch.org.
Secretary: Becky Sheldon. Email: secretary@derbyshirevch.org.
Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Cathrin Wharton, 24 Golden Valley, Riddings, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4ES. Tel. 07775 780045. Email: membership@derbyshirevch.org.
Publicity, Vice-Chairman and newsletter editor: Philip Cousins, 34 John Street, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1ER. Tel. 01246 209528. Email: publicity@derbyshirevch.org.
County Editor: Philip Riden, 9 Owen Falls Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 0FR. Tel. 01246 554026. Email philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.



Changes to county editor's status

Our County editor has retired from salaried staff responsibilities at the University of Nottingham.

Philip Riden, who has been a research fellow at the university is now an honorary research fellow at the same university, so he can remain county editor. This means that he retains his university research facilities, such as access to the library and on-line services. Philip's email address is also unchanged.

All other aspects of support for and from our editor, along with his activities, remain unaltered. Philip also remains county editor for Nottinghamshire.

AGM and walks cancelled

In addition to our Chesterfield research group being unable to meet since the spring (page 1) we had to cancel our AGM and summer walks series

We will return to some form of normality as soon as we can, but trust our supporters will appreciate the need to keep safe.

Update on '...Streets and Houses'

With this newsletter you will receive an update sheet on our Chesterfield Streets and Houses book. These were originally produced by our county editor for the Chesterfield and District Civic Society. If the need arises, we will issue others with this newsletter, but they will not be a regular feature.

We are glad to be back with you

We're glad to back and apologise for not being with you!

A number of issues have stopped regular production of this newsletter. We are sorry about this.

We now aim to produce a newsletter at least three times a year, emailed or posted to you.

If you have received the printed edition and would prefer it emailed, please let Cathrin Wharton, our membership secretary know.

Although electronic newsletters save the trust money, we are equally keen that our supporters receive this newsletter in whatever format they want.