



Volume III Nearly There

Over the summer our county editor has been concentrating on drafting the last pieces of text for the first of the new Derbyshire VCH hardback series, which will include detailed histories of Bolsover and four adjoining parishes to the north, Barlborough, Whitwell, Clowne and Elmton (including Creswell).

Drafts of all these sections are now in the hands of the central office staff for comment and will be revised as they come back. By the time trust members receive this newsletter, a draft of the introduction to the volume (which despite its name is nearly always the part of a book which gets written last) will also have gone off to London.

We hope that the book will be published in September 2013. All trust members who have been subscribers for at least a year (which is virtually everyone) will get a free copy. The retail price of the book will be around £100. It will be generally uniform with the two Derbyshire volumes published in 1905 and 1907 in terms of size and binding, but will follow the modern series style in terms of page layout and illustrations. All the parishes will have at least two maps and several photographs. Depending on details of funding which have yet to be worked out, it may be possible to include some colour plates.

The volume will also be notable as one of the first to be published for any county to include a new form of dedication: to both the memory of Queen Victoria (as all the books published since the 1901 have had) and to the Queen. In June this year the University of London was able to announce that Her Majesty had agreed that, as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the History should in future be dedicated to her as well as to her great-great-grandmother, in whose reign (and in commemoration of whose own Diamond Jubilee) it was originally established.

It seems a long time since we set up the Derbyshire VCH Trust more than a decade ago. Members have been very patient but now, in addition to the two very successful paperbacks issued a few years ago, we are finally within sight of seeing a full-length VCH volume for Derbyshire. Given the amount of preparatory work that has been done for other parts of north-east Derbyshire, it should be possible to get another ready for publication quite quickly after the Bolsover book has appeared.

Walks Programme



The Trust's guided walks programme was again a success, thanks mainly to the input of our volunteers.

Chief amongst these were Mary Wiltshire and Sue Woore who led a series of meetings around Duffield Frith including Belper, Heage and Hartshay (below), Mugginton and Mercaston.

Cliff Williams introduced North Wingfield (picture above) with Dudley Fowkes guiding us around Ironville and Riddings. We were joined by Killamarsh Heritage Society for a walk around the north Derbyshire parish.



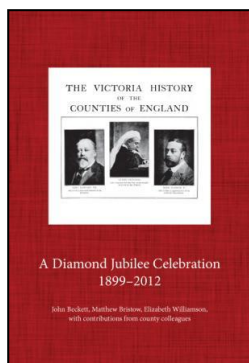
Research groups reconvene

The three research groups will all begin meeting again in early October. Now that so much material has been accumulated, the emphasis will be on writing up text and filling in gaps in the research, so that members can at least see the results of their efforts on our website, if not immediately in print. In this context, trust members may like to have a look at the Nottinghamshire VCH website, where we have been able to mount a section of text for a group of mostly small rural parishes in the south of the county as the first stage in drafting a full-length volume for the county. These are the work of one volunteer and there is more to follow! I hope Derbyshire can emulate this example in the next few months.

Details of the meetings are as follows: **Chesterfield:** Wednesday evenings, 7–9 at Chesterfield Library, starting on 3 October. **Matlock:** Tuesday afternoons, 2–4, at the County Local Studies Library, County Hall, fortnightly, starting on 9 October. **Wirksworth:** Tuesday evenings, 7–9, at the Town Hall, fortnightly, starting 9 October.

As always, we hope to welcome back existing supporters and would be delighted if more trust members would join us.

Diamond Jubilee Book



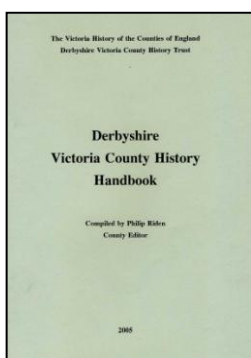
Earlier this summer the VCH Central Office produced a paperback about the History to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee rededication to the Queen.

The book includes a general account of VCH, mostly written by Professor John Beckett, bringing up-to-date those published in the General Introduction of 1970 and the Supplement of 1990, and then a couple of pages about current work in all the counties in which VCH is active, including Derbyshire Nottinghamshire, written by the county editors.

The book is an attractive, readable survey of what VCH has achieved in recent years and what it hopes to do in the future. The Derbyshire Trust has decided to supply a copy free of charge to any member who would like one (the book is mainly

being issued in electronic form, with a print-on-demand option at £10). If you would like a copy, please email the county editor (philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk) or phone (01246 5540026 evenings) and we will order sufficient copies from the central office (delivery may take a few weeks since they will be printed specially). Please note that in the last newsletter we indicated that all members would be automatically sent a copy. This is not correct. You will need to contact the county editor to be sent your free copy.

New VCH Handbook



The Handbook we published in 2005, which has generally worked well as a manual for volunteers in our research groups, has been out of print for some time and in places is getting out of date. So, we are revising it.

Thanks to a grant from the University of Nottingham's Connected Communities Project, funded by the Government's Arts and Humanities Research Council, it has been possible, over the summer, to revise and in places substantially rewrite and extend the 2005 booklet (left). Progress has been rapid. The revised version is about to go to press.

Not only will the text be longer and more detailed, but thanks to the outside funding, we will be able to issue it in a much improved format, as an A5 paperback in the Derbyshire Record

Society Occasional Paper series. Trust members who may have seen the Record Society's Occasional Paper no. 8, published in July (the first to appear since 1982), will know that the new style is easy to read and attractive in appearance.

Thanks to the advent of digital printing comparable in quality to traditional wet-ink printing and automated binding, it is also much cheaper to produce in this format than it would have been even five years ago.

Trust members will receive a free copy of the booklet, which will also be offered to Record Society members at the usual members' discount, and (we hope) sold commercially. In addition to volunteers in the research groups using it, we hope it will appeal to local history societies and individuals who would like a straightforward, practical and reasonably detailed guide to how to write the history of a Derbyshire parish (whether for VCH or not). The reappearance of the Handbook will also be an opportunity to gain some new publicity for the project in Derbyshire ahead of the appearance of Volume III.

News in Brief

Your chance to help with Pevsner revision

Trust members are being encouraged to help with the latest revision of Nikolaus Pevsner's iconic *Buildings of England* Derbyshire book. Clare Hartwell, who spoke to our July AGM, is anxious for Trust members who have spotted potential areas for revision and have reliable information on them, to contact her. Clare's email is clare@clarehartwell.co.uk, or she can be contacted via the publisher's address at Buildings of England, Yale University Press, 47 Bedford Square London WC1B 3DP.

AGM

Our AGM, which was held at the Imperial Rooms Matlock on Saturday 14 July was judged a success. Officers were re-elected without change, but committee member Rod Gent has stepped down after a long stint. We would like to thank Rod for his hard and dedicated work for the Trust.

VCH prize draw



Clare Hartwell carried out the Trust's July prize draw at the AGM. Clare is pictured above with our Secretary Dudley Fowkes, who has overseen every one of our prize draws. The lucky winner in July was Gladwyn Turbutt, a long time supporter of the Trust and former president. Other recent winners have included Anne-Marie Knowles.

Electronic issues

An increasing number of VCH members are opting to receive this newsletter electronically. This saves costs, particularly following the recent postal charge increases. It also means you receive a newsletter in colour! To receive an electronic version and occasional updates on VCH activities please email membership@derbyshirevch.org.

Derbyshire VCH Contacts



Derbyshire

Please note: there are changes to email and other addresses for our Chairman, Treasurer and Publicity Officer. Our Secretary has a new address and telephone number.

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