



# Success for 'Connected Communities' Event

An important development since the last Newsletter has been the Trust's involvement with a new initiative sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council aimed at enabling university history and archaeology departments to build closer links with local history and heritage groups.



**Connected Communities 'road-show' at Matlock, 31 March.**

In January Nottingham was among 21 universities to receive an initial grant of £25,000 to develop this work during 2012, and will be able to apply for more funding later this year.

The University is working with several groups in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (including VCH in both counties) to encourage them to undertake small-scale

research projects in conjunction with members of staff. At the same time the Heritage Lottery Fund has announced a new scheme, 'All our Stories', under which societies can apply for awards of between £3,000 and £10,000 to support the projects. These awards are also seen as the first step towards societies applying for larger sums in the future, again in association with a university.

The University School of Humanities and the VCH Trust organised a very successful workshop on 31 March, to which trust members and representatives of local societies were invited, at which this new scheme was explained. Many of those present expressed interest in becoming involved.

The University has now arranged a follow-up meeting, also at Imperial Rooms, Matlock, on the morning of Saturday 26 May, when research proposals and the mechanics of applying for an HLF 'All our Stories' award will be discussed in more detail. More information and a booking form please contact the county editor. Any trust member who would like to become involved through a local history society is very welcome to attend the event.

For its own part the Derbyshire VCH Trust will be applying for an HLF award, probably with the aim of completing some of its work to the stage where we can produce another paperback similar to those on Bolsover and Hardwick. These have proved very popular as a means of making VCH research available in an attractive format to a wider audience. If other societies would like to apply for an 'All our Stories' award to collaborate directly with the trust in preparing a parish history suitable for inclusion in VCH, that would be very helpful, but it is not essential, and both the University and the trust are keen to encourage any worthwhile local history research in Derbyshire.

## Spring walks programme



As in previous years the Trust has arranged a programme of guided walks around places in Derbyshire whose history we have either been working on for VCH or (in some cases) are hoping to look at in the future. All members, whether or not they are in one of the research groups, are very welcome to come along to these walks. All start at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the place indicated:

**30 May – North Wingfield: a parish and its six townships.** Meet at St Lawrence's church, North Wingfield.

**6 June – Killamarsh: collieries, railways and a canal.** Meet at St Giles church.

**13 June – Belper before Strutt: discovering a medieval forest community.** Meet at Coppice car park, off the market place.

**20 June – Heage and Hartshay: on the edge of the Frith.** Meet at Main road, Lower Hartshay, off A610.

**27 June – Ironville and Riddings: two employer-provided villages.** Meet at Ironville church.

**4 July – Mugginton and Mercaston: manors and manor houses.** Meet at Mugginton church, parking available at the Village Hall.

# Nottinghamshire VCH Takes Shape

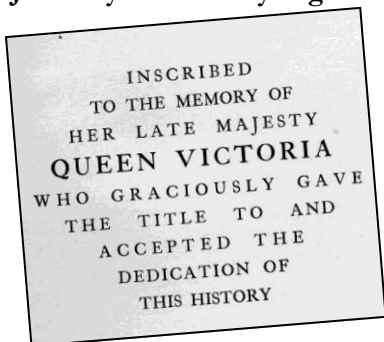
Until now work on VCH in Nottinghamshire has lacked any kind of institutional identity. Moves are now being made to remedy this.

With an eye, it must be said, to possible funding through the Connected Communities and All Our Histories projects, the council of the Thoroton Society, the county historical society for Nottinghamshire, has agreed to recommend to the society's AGM on 28 April that a new sub-committee of the society be appointed to oversee VCH in Nottinghamshire.

The Thoroton Society would then be able to apply for funding for the History in the county. Meanwhile, work progresses on draft histories of a number of parishes in the south of the county by members of the research group meeting fortnightly at Nottinghamshire Archives on Tuesday mornings. The first meeting of the summer term is on 8 May, 10.30–12.30, and new members are always welcome.

## New Dedication for VCH

On 6th February 2012 the nation marked the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne; it is on this day her Diamond Jubilee year officially begins.



It is also the start of a very special year for the Victoria County History. We will be celebrating the Jubilee with a rededication of the series to the present Queen, who has graciously permitted the University of London to mark the occasion in what, for us, is a particularly appropriate way; for it was the present Queen's great-great-grandmother to whom the VCH series was originally dedicated and who gave the history the title, which we will keep.

The London office are producing a commemorative paperback, detailing the history of VCH. Every Derbyshire VCH member will receive a free copy of this book either at the AGM or later.

The Jubilee commemorative publication will include new research by Professor John Beckett, former VCH Director, into how the VCH was founded, its early royal connections and how the original dedication – and series title – came about. The special character of VCH research and notable contributors to VCH success as a scholarly project will be highlighted. It is hoped that this will help spread the word about our present activities as well as our past achievements.

Look out, too, for the publication of the first books to bear the new dedication – Yorkshire East Riding IX: Great Driffield and its Townships, and Essex XI: the North-East Essex Coast, about Clacton and neighbouring resorts. They will appear in the spring, to be followed in the summer by Oxfordshire XVII, a volume on southern parishes which include Kelmscott, the home of William Morris.

## News in Brief

### Research Groups Continue

The trust's research groups will continue to meet in the summer term and we hope to welcome everyone back when they restart. The Chesterfield group will meet for four weeks in May (2, 9, 16 and 23), before the programme of summer walks begins; the Matlock group will meet fortnightly from Tuesday 2 May, from 2 to 4; and the Wirksworth group will meet from the same date in the evening.

### AGM Date

Make a diary date now for our AGM, which will be held at the Imperial Rooms Matlock on Saturday 14 July. Our guest speaker will be Clare Hartwell, who will be working on revising the iconic 'Buildings of England' Derbyshire volume. The AGM will start at 2.30 pm with the talk following the business part of the meeting. For members of the Derbyshire Record Society, their AGM will be held during the morning. Lunch will be provided for VCH members, but you'll need to book. Full details about the event will follow nearer the time. *Please note that members on our electronic mailing list will be sent out AGM papers by email. In an effort to reduce costs there will not be an annual report pre-circulated this year.*

### Electronic issues

An increasing amount of VCH members are opting to receive this newsletter electronically. This saves costs and also means you receive a newsletter in colour. To receive an electronic version and occasional updates on VCH activities please email [membership@derbyshirevch.org](mailto:membership@derbyshirevch.org).

### Marc Fitch Lecture

The Institute of Historical Research, which has managed the VCH project since 1933, is devoting the annual Marc Fitch lecture to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration. The lecture is to be given by Dr David Starkey entitled "Head of Our Morality": why the twentieth-century British monarchy matters. All are welcome to attend the lecture and reception to be held at Senate House on June 25th at 6.30pm. Please RSVP to [VCH.Events@sas.ac.uk](mailto:VCH.Events@sas.ac.uk).

### Lottery Update

Due to our involvement with the 'Connected Communities' initiative (page one), work towards any possible Lottery bid for work specifically in the Derwent Valley World Heritage Corridor is currently on hold.

## Derbyshire VCH Contacts

**Please note: there are changes to email addresses for our Chairman, Treasurer and Publicity Officer.**

**President:** The Duke of Devonshire, KVCO, CBE, DL.

**Chairman:** Stephen Bounds. *Email:* [chairman@derbyshirevch.org](mailto:chairman@derbyshirevch.org)

**Secretary:** Dudley Fowkes, 18 Helpston Close, Westhouses, Alfreton, DE55 5AX. telephone 01773 830520. *Email:* [dudleyfowkes@dfowkes.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:dudleyfowkes@dfowkes.fsbusiness.co.uk)

**Treasurer and membership secretary:** Cathrin Wharton, 24 Golden Valley, Riddings, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 4ES. *Tel.* 01773 528 885. *Email:* [treasurer@derbyshirevch.org](mailto:treasurer@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](mailto:publicity@derbyshirevch.org)

**County Editor:** Philip Riden, History Department, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. *Tel.* 0115 951 5685 or 01246 554026 evenings. *Email:* [philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk)

