



Volume III Scheduled for Publication

Local history in Derbyshire will reach a landmark later this year, as volume III of Derbyshire VCH is published.

Early February saw County Editor, Philip Riden, dispatch text for the first 'big red book' to be published in Derbyshire since Edwardian times. This means that the book has reached its first landmark towards publication. Now work will progress on artwork, punctuated by necessary text revisions, suggested by VCH central office staff in London. Here Elizabeth Williamson acts as executive editor with Dr Alan Thacker as consultant editor.

County Editor Philip Riden explains that this volume will deal with the parishes of Bolsover and four adjoining parishes to the north; Barlborough, Whitwell, Clowne and Elmton (including Creswell). He adds; 'The book is now at the stage where I will inevitably be making revisions suggested by Elizabeth and Alan. This is very much standard practice. Everything is on programme for the book to be published later this year. A date has not yet been set; we rely on the publishers for this. But there's every possibility that VCH members will be getting a slightly early Christmas present!'

All trust members who have been subscribers for at least a year (which is virtually everyone) will get a free copy of the book, which is expected to retail at just under £100.

Illustrations are being selected, with cartographic work in progress. All the parishes will have at least two maps and several photographs.

Says Philip Riden: 'The fact that we've made progress to this level and have much other work covered, has been possible due to the backing from Trust members and our partners, including Derbyshire County Council and the University of Nottingham. Our thanks to everyone who has contributed.'



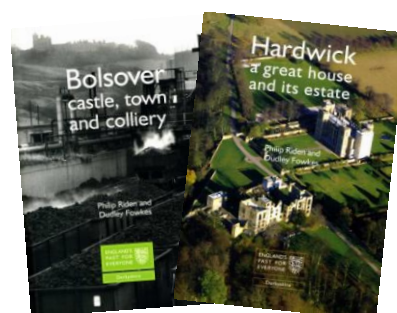
Research Groups Continue

All three of our research groups are currently meeting. The Matlock group is now re-housed in the joint Record Office and Local Studies facility on New Street, in the town.

Chesterfield: every week, Wednesday evenings, 7–9 at Chesterfield Library, **Wirksworth:** fortnightly, Tuesday evenings, 7–9, at the Town Hall. **Matlock:** fortnightly, Tuesday afternoons, 2–4, at the County Local Studies Library and Archives service, New Street.

As always, we welcome back existing supporters and would be delighted if more trust members would join us. For full details contact the County Editor.

EPE Books Sell-out



Though you may still be lucky to find some copies locally, the two paperback books published as part of the England's Past for Everyone, (EPE) Heritage Lottery backed project, have officially sold out.

Both the books were co-authored by county editor Philip Riden and Trust secretary Dudley Fowkes.

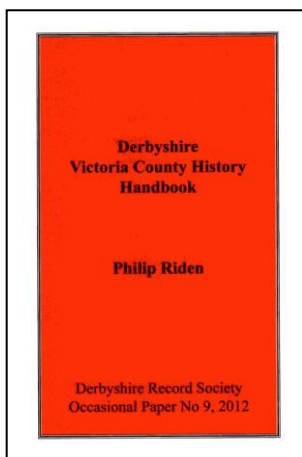
The Hardwick book appeared in late 2009; the Bolsover volume was published the year previous.

Trust members who attended may remember two very successful launches, particularly the Hardwick event, which saw guided tours of the National Trust property.

The whole EPE project has been judged a success. In Derbyshire it was launched by a 'birthday party' when local MP Dennis Skinner cut our birthday cake, back in March 2006 (below). To the left of the Bolsover constituency MP is Dudley Fowkes, with Philip Riden to the right.

- *We still have a few copies of the Bolsover book available. Contact the Secretary for details.*





Research Handbook is Revised

Our Derbyshire VCH research handbook has been thoroughly revised and is now available.

Our county editor has revised both contents and format, making it much easier to use than the old edition, published in 2005. It is now in an A5 format, but remains the only publication available specifically tailored to local history research in Derbyshire.

Work has been completed thanks to a grant from the University of Nottingham's Connected Communities Project, funded by the Government's Arts and Humanities Research Council. The booklet has been

published as a Derbyshire Record Society Occasional Paper. Priced at £10 each Trust member can receive one copy free of charge.

Ed Mollon, a member of our Chesterfield research group since it started writes about the new handbook.

As a regular VCH research group member I've valued the original VCH Handbook since its inception. The present publication is a development of that work. Much expanded, the user will find references to many fresh resources in manuscript, printed and digital formats. Which have emerged during the last seven years.

The revised handbook also takes on board comments from users. Some beneficial modifications have been made to the structure of the work, in particular the presentation of the Preliminary and General sections. It is also in a handier A5 size. Of 124 pages, there are several of appendices, which give details ranging from the availability of medieval and early public records through to locating Derbyshire wills. The section on making notes from directories is essentially an explanation of how the popular VCH slip method works – complete with examples, though there's also a section on note-taking generally.

The new edition, like its predecessor, mirrors the contents of a VCH 'big red book.' Familiar are the chapters on how to source and write a general introduction to a parish being studied, along with those on manors and other estates, economic history, social history, religious history and local government. Basic research principles are also covered, along with a description of VCH.

This work is an essential tool, not only for the teams of VCH workers in Derbyshire, but for amateur historians contemplating any local history project in the county and as a model for other projects elsewhere. The first handbook broke new ground for local history research in Derbyshire. This edition continues in the same vein.

The twelve years of progress facilitated by the Handbooks could not have been achieved without access to the resources and services of a major university. The VCH Trust is indebted to colleagues at Nottingham for aid on several fronts.

This book has been shaped by continued use in research. It is a practical handbook for use at the desk or in the library.

- For your free member's copy of the book please contact the County Editor. Copies to non-members of the Trust are priced at £10.

Derbyshire VCH Contacts

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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News in Brief

VCH Impact Study

Derbyshire VCH is being used for an impact study by the University of Nottingham. The study is being prepared by Professor John Beckett, former national VCH director and Professor of English Regional History at the University's Department of History. The study is designed to explore how the university's association with VCH has helped with community based research and engagement.

Committee

The January Derbyshire VCH Trust meeting reluctantly received Paul Elliott's resignation. Of the University of Derby, Paul has had to resign due to teaching commitments.

Treasurer Cathrin Wharton reported that our finances remain relatively healthy – though we always welcome more supporters.

Communities

The Trust was unsuccessful in securing a possible award under the 'All our stories' element of Connected Communities. This is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, administered by universities (locally Nottingham) aimed at linking academic research with local communities. If the award had been successful it would have seen further work by the Wirksworth group on the town's history, particularly towards publication of a paperback.

Work with schools and web resources were also envisaged. Despite this disappointment the Killamarsh Heritage Society was awarded £3,000 to complete a VCH history of their parish. The county editor will be working with them to deliver this element.

Electronic Issues

Receiving your VCH newsletter electronically saves costs, particularly following 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

Book Available

The VCH Diamond Jubilee book is now available, free to members, on application to the County Editor.

Congratulations!

Finally, congratulations to the County Council on the opening of its combined Local Studies Library and Archives service. For details visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record-office/