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Successful Launch for Volume III

The Derbyshire VCH Trust organised a very successful launch for volume III, which covers Barlborough, Bolsover, Clowne, Whitwell, Elmton and Creswell.

Approaching 150 members and guests joined us for the combined launch and Marc Fitch Lecture on 12 April 2014 at Heritage High School, Clowne. Afterwards a buffet lunch was served with an opportunity for networking.

Trust Chairman Stephen Bounds said; ‘This was a very special event – over 100 years since the last big red book was published in Derbyshire. So, it deserved the event we gave it. There was also an opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us over the years.’

Our photographer Trevor Smith was busy during the day. Here are a few examples of his work.



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1 Guests and VCH committee members at the book launch, including VCH County Editor Philip Riden.

2 Professor Miles Taylor (far left) Director of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London, speaking during the book launch, with our ‘front table team’ of (l-r) VCH Trust Chairman Stephen Bounds, VCH Trustee Dr Richard Gaunt of the University of Nottingham and Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire Colonel John Wilson, OBE.

3 Members collect their copy of volume III

4 An attentive audience including second from left Cllr Anne Western, leader of Derbyshire County Council; Cllr Eion Watts, Leader of Bolsover District Council and Cllr Ken Walker, Chairman of Bolsover District Council.

5 Professor David Hey delivering his well-received and entertaining Marc Fitch lecture on the ‘Origin and spread of Derbyshire surnames’.

6 There was plenty of time for networking and discussion before and after the event. Dr Clive Hart is pictured with the Vice-Lord Lieutenant.

7 Guests swapping news of the latest local history research.



Two further images from our successful book launch show Chairman Stephen Bounds with (left) Mrs Walker and Cllr Ken Walker, Chairman of Bolsover District Council and (right) with Cllr Anne Western, Leader of Derbyshire County Council, all with their respective authority's presentation copies. A further copy was presented to the Vice-Lord Lieutenant as HM the Queen's representative in Derbyshire. Photography: Trevor Smith.

AGM set for 28 June at Matlock

Our 2014 AGM is heading for the now familiar venue of the Imperial Rooms at Matlock and is set for 28 June.

Like previous years the event is being shared with the Derbyshire Record Society – who will hold their AGM in the morning, with the VCH AGM after lunch. There will be a complimentary buffet lunch served between the two AGMs, for members of either group.

VCH Treasurer Cathrin Wharton says; 'Combining the two separate events to make a day has proved very successful in the past, particularly as both share some common membership. In addition we have what promises to be a very interesting lecture in the afternoon. We hope to see as many members as possible on the day.'

As last year, in order to reduce costs, there will be no written annual report, but the Treasurer's report will be available on the day and can be posted or emailed to anyone beforehand on request to Cathrin at the address below.

- *The running order for the day will be: 11.00 am Refreshments served; 11.30 am Derbyshire Record Society AGM; 12.30 pm Lunch; 2.00 pm VCH AGM (including County Editor's Report); 2.30 pm - talk by Dr Mervyn Miller. 'Seeds of Greatness – the Derbyshire Works of Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin (see article opposite).*
- *There will be a free buffet lunch served from around 12.30 pm – please let Cathrin Wharton know in advance if you require this – there is no cost for members.*

The Imperial Rooms (post code DE4 3NL) are on Imperial Road, in the Centre of Matlock, with town centre car parking available opposite. Bus and rail stations are nearby.

New contract agreed

Late spring saw discussions and the drafting of a new contract with the University of Nottingham, supporting the work of the County Editor.

The contract, which runs for two years, guarantees the position of the county editor and the support he receives at the University, who are the leading partners in Derbyshire VCH.

Trust Chairman Stephen Bounds comments; 'This new contract will see work for the History continue in Derbyshire, under Philip Riden's excellent leadership and help progress towards our next volume. It puts the seal on what has been a very successful year for VCH. I cannot thank our Trust officers, Philip Riden, our members and partners enough for the tremendous amount of work and commitment shown over the years. This is now having significant benefits for local history in the county.'

It is hoped that the free contract will be formally signed in the very near future.

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Key-note AGM lecture on Parker and Unwin

Our 2014 AGM lecture on Saturday 28 June, at around 2.30pm, will feature a key-note lecture on the Derbyshire Works of Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin, by the foremost expert on the two – Dr Mervyn Miller.

Dr. Miller will examine how the two's works helped propel them to international acclaim via the Garden City Movement and the master-planning of New Earswick, Letchworth Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb. Particularly housing, but also individual Arts and Crafts houses will be examined, including those at Barrow Hill, Buxton, Chesterfield and Matlock.

Dr Miller has extensively studied and written about Parker's and Unwin's work and of planning and architecture in general.

Everyone is welcome to attend; please 'spread the word'!

Dates for 2014 Summer walks

Confirmed dates for our popular evening walks programme are below. For up-to-date information and joining instructions, check our [website](http://www.derbyshirevch.org). All commence at 7 pm.

- **4 June:** Palterton and Scarcliffe, including Scarcliffe Park.
- **11 June:** Steeple Grange and Bolehill, near Wirksworth.
- **18 June:** Hough and Hulland, near Ashbourne.
- **25 June:** Barrow Hill including St. Andrew's church.

(This walk will provide some context and orientation before Dr Miller's talk at the AGM).

For further information or to reserve a place please contact the Membership Secretary, (details at left). The walks are free to attend for members of the Trust and a donation to funds from guests is always very welcome.