



## How we're progressing

Despite restrictions due to the Covid pandemic progress is still being made with VCH publications, as our county editor covered in his report to our 4 September AGM.

Philip reported that the much-heralded Hasland VCH book is still not ready to go to the printers. This spin-off from our main work is still awaiting access to the local studies library at Chesterfield, so that we can hopefully include a good selection of photographs from that source.

There are still a few Hasland sources that need checking at the Derbyshire Record Office. Philip told the AGM that he was sorry that the Chesterfield volunteer group had not been able to reconvene – news from the library regarding room bookings reopening was still awaited.\*

Philip had earlier referred to his work as editor for the Derbyshire Record Society. Here he has overseen production of three recent titles that will be of great benefit to VCH. These are on Derbyshire turnpikes, county bridges and the Derbyshire musters. Where appropriate, information from these is being worked into draft text. Philip ended his report by thanking all our supporters.

Despite set-backs our members have seen some developments during the year, as publicity officer Philip Cousins reported. Those that follow our webpage, launched during the year, will have seen that we now have draft text for Newbold, Brampton and Whittington available. We have also restarted the newsletter.

Philip C stated that our Facebook page, also launched during the year, has prompted some very useful comments. We have been able to maintain regular postings on Facebook, our website blogs and have recently started a Twitter feed. This activity does not generally take time away from our County Editor as most posts and website updates are undertaken by our publicity officer, treasurer or secretary.

Our treasurer and membership secretary, Cathrin Wharton, reported that the VCH Trust was currently well resourced and had a healthy balance in the bank. Earlier in the meeting Philip Riden had reported that he had not been able to undertake much research during the year. This and the non-appearance of the planned Hasland book had all had an impact on expenses. The volunteer group had also not met.

Cathrin reported that we had 109 members.

*If any member wants a copy of the accounts or any other AGM papers please email our secretary – details on page 2.*

***\* Our volunteer group has now been able to re-start. The first meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 13 October. Contact our county editor for further details.***



**County editor Philip Riden explains that work is still progressing on VCH.**

## AGM – your views welcomed

We want your views on our 2021 AGM, which was held on Saturday 4 September at the Imperial Rooms, Matlock.

The format followed our previous AGMs, with the Derbyshire Record Society meeting held in the morning. Along with a chance to attend in person we also had an option to log-in and see the proceedings remotely.

Says chairman Lyn Pardo Roques; 'We would like to hear your views on the AGM – good or bad. We were obviously constrained by the Covid social distancing element, but were able to live-stream the event, including the talk after our formal business. Would you, for example, like this element to remain? For those attending the buffet lunch we also had to opt for buying-in supermarket prepared food – as we couldn't secure outside catering, but this was a saving.'

So, whatever your views and whether you remotely viewed the AGM or attended in person, drop a line to Lyn (contact details on page 2) and let her know what you thought about the AGM.

## Have you won our prize draw?

Our monthly prize draws are continuing. We always contact our winners but congratulations to those who have won our £100 prize. Recent winners are draw numbers 112, 89 and 133.

# More digital developments

As we covered in our AGM report the Trust is continuing to develop our digital offering. We've recently opened a Twitter account and our Facebook posts and website are proving popular.

Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireVCH>) sees posts about weekly, with a mix of topics ranging from explaining about the sources that we use in research and highlighting past and current research areas. Sometimes we convert these into 'blog' posts for our website (<https://derbyshirevch.org/>), or we may add further information in the blog or illustrations. We use generally use our Twitter account (@VCH\_Derbyshire) to publicise new information on our blog and Facebook page and communicate with fellow VCH counties who also have accounts.

Since we started our Facebook page in October last year, we have posted over 60 times. The majority of our posts get around 150 likes some substantially more, particularly if they are then reposted on other sites. By mid-July we had 271 'followers'.

- *Anyone can view our Twitter feed and Facebook posts by using the links above, but unless you sign up to them you won't be able to post remarks.*

## More from our AGM

All the existing committee and officers were re-elected at our September AGM.

Our officers are listed at the bottom of this page. Other members of the Derbyshire VCH Trust Committee are Anne-Marie Knowles, Professor Anthony Cox, Mary Wiltshire and Miriam Wood. The committee has continued to meet, remotely, over the pandemic.

From this issue we are starting an occasional series on members of our *committee and officers*.



*A few pictures from our AGM. Top left; our secretary Becky Sheldon is on the keyboard with Karla Novak (one of our IT support team) looking on. Left; (L-R) Becky, our chairman Lyn Pardo Roques and treasurer Cathrin Wharton. Dr David Appleby (above) gave a well-received talk, after the formal business, on the 'Civil War Petitions Project'. For further details on this see their website [www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk](http://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk).*

*A special thanks to our AGM IT support team Karla Novak and Robin Pardo Roques Also, to our catering support Rebekah Clayton.*

## Derbyshire VCH Contacts

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## Our chairman Lyn Pardo Roques

We are presenting a short series of 'pen portraits' on officers of the Derbyshire VCH Trust, starting with our chairman Lyn Pardo Roques.



I am the daughter of an avid historian – by the age of eight I could recognise a piece of Samian ware, and by ten I was sick of the sight of them. My father was very keen on Romans – I am not.

As a young teenager I was lucky enough to be involved with the Oatlands Palace dig, even though we were not on anything glamorous, just working on a midden. I have been interested in archaeology ever since.

We are very fortunate to have the Archaeology Day in Chesterfield, in most years. I look forward to these resuming. As a teacher, I remember taking my class to observe the Vicar Lane dig – we were there on the day the large piece of pottery was found, and my class were also the first visitors to the new Chesterfield Museum just after it opened. We had a dig in the school grounds, turning up quantities of pottery pipes and tiles. I feel responsible for the demise of a tree where children found treasures among the roots.

Shortly after moving to Chesterfield in 1988, I got chatting to some locals, and we decided to set up a local history group. At the inaugural meeting I was joking about the legend of the tunnels under Spital, connecting us to the Crooked Spire. An old gentleman stood up and said "They're there. I've been in 'em" That put me in my place. Some years later the Spital Local History Group felt we had gathered enough to produce a book, which I was proud to edit. The group folded when many of the participants became too elderly to venture out in the evening.

I started researching with the VCH group following a series of lectures by Philip Riden, and subsequently became Chair of the Derbyshire Trust. I feel happy that we find information and put it into the public domain in a coherent form, so that other people can further their interest in local history.