



**AGM Top table team: l-r
Secretary Becky Sheldon,
Chairman Lyn Pardo Roques
with County Editor Philip Riden.**

AGM reviews successful year

Our 2022 AGM, held at Matlock's Imperial Rooms on the 1 October, was able to review a successful year for VCH in Derbyshire.

The meeting heard highlights of the year included the successful launch of our latest spin-off book on Hasland and successful sales of both this publication and earlier 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses'.

Finances were also reported to be in good shape, by our Treasurer Cathrin Wharton. Membership numbers are relatively stable.

County editor, Philip Riden, commented that our publications strategy was now being concentrated on the spin-off titles, with work actively progressing on Wingerworth and another volume on Temple Normanton and Calow. He paid tribute to continued support from our members along with work by volunteers. Also highlighted was the contribution to VCH made by David Edwards which had resulted in the Wingerworth volume being substantially complete (which is now expected to be published first). But Philip cautioned that now Coronavirus restrictions had been fully lifted he was anxious to resume work at The National Archives, which would inevitably mean that there would again be a call on Trust finances due to research expenses. Nevertheless the Trust was, at present, well placed to be able to cover this work.

Our publicity officer, Philip Cousins, reported on increased social media activity and the excellent coverage achieved locally for the Hasland book launch.

Chairman Lyn Pardo Roques oversaw the meeting, with Secretary Becky Sheldon providing administration and IT support.

This year, unlike 2021, we did not stream the meeting as there was little demand to do this. As has been the case in previous years, the morning saw the AGM of the Derbyshire Record Society, with lunch provided jointly by VCH and the Society. Around 30 members attended, all existing officers were re-elected. After the business meeting Award winning buildings archaeologist James Wright gave a well-received talk about 'Late Mediaeval Great Houses in the East Midlands'. The meeting closed with questions to Dr Wright followed by light refreshments.

- *A minute's silence was taken at the meeting following the sad news of the death of Miriam Wood, who had been a VCH stalwart since re-inauguration and a committee member. Dr Wood will be well known for her outstanding contribution to local history in the county, but, as our Secretary put it: 'she was just a very nice and genuine person'. Our sympathies to her family on this sad news.*

Our thanks to you!

It's been a successful few years for publishing the results of VCH research work.

Our 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses' book, of which 500 copies were printed, has practically sold out. Likewise our recent book on Hasland (though we had a lower 400 print-run).

We have also purchased the remainder copies of the VCH 'Big Red Book' (volume 3) on Bolsover and Adjoining Parishes, from the publishers – amounting to some 40 tomes.

With our England's Past For Everyone paperbacks on Bolsover and Hardwick long-out of print, plus our research handbook (still available in its second edition) that's not bad going for a research project that started some 20 years ago, without the benefit of any real legacy in the county.

This is all due to you, our supporters and volunteers, our officers and our County Editor.

As we now look forward to further spin-off books being published in the next few years – mostly about the area around Chesterfield – we'd like to repeat what we have stated many times before – our sincere thanks to all those that have assisted in our endeavours so far in Derbyshire.

Hasland book's capacity launch

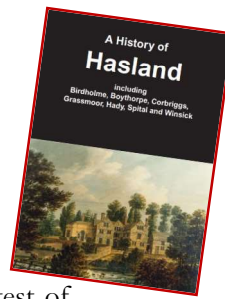
Our Hasland book launch in the summer, was met with a capacity audience and standing room only.

Held at the Devonshire Arms, in Hasland, the pub's function room was full to overflowing at the launch in the latest of our spin-off publications. The new book and its launch had been accompanied by articles in a local lifestyle magazine and the Derbyshire Times and had obviously created some interest.

County Editor Philip Riden gave a short introductory talk on how the volume came to be produced, followed by a brief account of Hasland and the areas it once constituted – Birdholme, Boythorpe, Corbriggs, Grassmoor, Hady, Spital and Winsick.

Members were then able to pick up their copy of the book and it was for sale to the public, along with our other publications.

All our members should have received a complimentary copy of the Hasland book by now. If you haven't, please contact our county editor as soon as possible.



Left; just some of the volunteers who have helped with our latest spin-off book, on Hasland. Right; Philip Riden addresses the packed meeting.

It's our last newsletter

This will be our last traditional news letter to you – though we'll still be keeping in touch. As things move to a more digital world (for example we only now produce about 10 hard copies of this newsletter), we are changing to an e-newsletter.

This is basically a simplified newsletter delivered by email. It won't be as 'designed' as this newsletter, but will still contain news about VCH.

Don't worry if you do not receive communications from us by email we will still be sending out hard copies of our new e-newsletter.

Please remember to follow us on our website, where we regularly 'blog' about local history issues – usually research carried out by VCH. We also have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireVCH>) and a Twitter account (@VCH_Derbyshire).

Derbyshire VCH contacts

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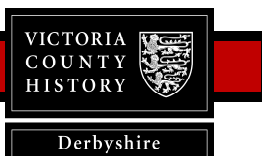
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Other Committee members: Professor Antony Cox, Mary Wiltshire, Anne-Marie Knowles.



Meet our Secretary Becky Sheldon

The second in our series of 'pen portraits' on officers of the Derbyshire VCH Trust, is about our Secretary Becky Sheldon.



As many of you will know I have been an archivist at Derbyshire Record Office since Summer 2009, having obtained a BA (Hons) from the University of Nottingham and a Masters degree from Aberystwyth University.

With the exception of my student years, I have lived in Derbyshire my whole life though only really developed an interest in local history after completing my undergraduate degree (which was exclusively national and international history and politics).

Currently, I am also the Honorary Secretary for the Derbyshire Record Society, editor of Derbyshire Miscellany, and trustee of Derbyshire Archaeological Society. I spent several years as Secretary and Treasurer for the East Midlands group of the Archives and Records Association.

Away from the heritage sector, prior to the first lockdown I volunteered with Derby Churches Winter Nightshelter for seven years and am now involved in a community sponsorship programme supporting a vulnerable refugee family to resettle in the UK.

As an archivist, my research interests lie primarily in the provenance of records and the history of record keeping.



Season's greetings to all our members and supporters