



Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust's electronic newsletter – 3 – autumn 2023

Welcome to our latest electronic newsletter

In this edition you will find an update from our September AGM, news of a new chair of the Trust, volunteer group report and an event we'll be attending, to name just a few.

We hope you will find this newsletter interesting and accessible. Let us know your thoughts by emailing publicity@derbyshirevch.org.

Our thanks for your continued support.

AGM report

As you will be aware our annual general meeting was held at the Imperial Rooms, Matlock in the afternoon of Saturday 23 September. This was preceded in the morning, as is now usual, by the AGM of the Derbyshire Record Society (DRS).

The DRS meeting also saw the launch of the *Derbyshire Feet of Fines 1196-1324* edited by the late HJH Garratt, followed by lunch, which was also available to VCH Trust members.

Our own AGM saw the usual reports by officers. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report – the VCH Trust continues to function without any great problems or issues; our finances remain at a satisfactory level, with our webpages and Facebook accounts regularly updated.

As our county editor (Philip Riden) reported; there have been no publications issued during the year under review, but it is expected that the Wingerworth book we referred to in our last electronic newsletter, will be published either in late 2023 or early 2024. Much work was carried out by long-standing supporter and much-respected local historian David Edwards towards this publication, though this is being supplemented by some additional research work. Our 'History of Hasland...' book, successfully launched in June 2022, has been effectively sold out for a few months. Though a few copies were available at the meeting, by the time you read this newsletter we will not have any in stock. Only a few copies of the 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses' book remain with us. Other publications remain in active research or editing, with the next one still expected to be a combined volume on Calow and Temple Normanton.

Philip further reported that the Chesterfield volunteer group (see below) continues to function, with various strands of research continuing. He ended his report by thanking all our VCH supporters.

The afternoon concluded with an excellent talk by Peter Collinge who looked at four case-studies of Derbyshire businesswomen in Georgian times.

The detailed financial report presented at the meeting is available to members of the Trust by contacting our Hon Treasurer.

New trust chair – Lesley Phillips

Elected at our AGM – we have a new chairman of the VCH Trust – Lesley Phillips – after our existing chair Lyn Pardo Roques stepped down. Lyn is, however, remaining on the VCH committee. Lesley will doubtless be a familiar face to many – as she was local studies librarian at Chesterfield for many years. Our thanks to Lyn for chairing our committee and a warm welcome to Lesley.

Lesley has contributed the short ‘pen-portrait’ which we carry below.



I grew up in the Black Country, and studied at Halesowen Grammar School and Loughborough University. After University I moved around, and have lived in Stratford on Avon, Leighton Buzzard, and Melton Mowbray amongst other places, but finally settled in Derbyshire, where I have lived for more than 30 years now. I have been a member of North Wingfield Local History Group for most of that time.

I have been interested in local history for as long as I can remember, and worked as a local studies librarian at Chesterfield for 10 years. At first I supported the VCH groups meeting at Chesterfield Library as part of my job, but I was so impressed with their enthusiasm, knowledge and work that I had to join in!

What does the VCH committee do?

Members of our committee are listed at the very bottom of the newsletter. We meet about three to four times a year to keep an eye on things like finance, publicity (now generally through electronic means) and receive reports from the county editor. We also make arrangements for the AGM and some other activities, such as attendance at exhibitions.

Volunteer group news

Our Chesterfield volunteer evening group has continued to meet in the period up to the summer recess – after a break it has now reconvened at Chesterfield Library. As always you are very welcome to join us. We meet in term time at Chesterfield Library (lower New Beetwell Street entrance to the meeting rooms suite), from 7 pm until 9 pm, every Wednesday. If you fancy joining us please get in-touch with our County Editor - philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk – beforehand. No previous experience of local history research is required. During the last year or so we have picked up quite a few new members and are pleased to see that they have continued with the group.

Our research group has enabled much more information to be gathered and sorted than would have been the case without it. We have also been able to use the extensive local studies collection at Chesterfield library – our thanks to the library staff there who have enabled this.

At one time the VCH Trust had research groups in Matlock and south Derbyshire, but we were not able to sustain these for one reason or another. Their work, though, has not been ‘lost’ as all research notes (generally in our ‘slip’ format) have been retained for future use.

Back publications

A further reminder that our VCH Volume III ('Bolsover and adjacent parishes') is available direct from the trust at £60 plus postage and packing. As mentioned above our 'Chesterfield Streets and Houses' VCH spin-off book is still just about available (at £20 plus postage and packing), but our 'History of Hasland...' book is sold out. For further information on obtaining these publications email our treasurer at treasurer@derbyshirevch.org.

Summer walks

We were only able to hold one summer walk this year – looking at Wingerworth. Those present had an enjoyable evening, in fine weather, walking various areas that will feature in our forthcoming book about the parish's history. Thanks to Wingerworth Parish Church for arranging the building to be opened for the start of our walk.



'Ashover Artefact Day' – 14 October, 10am to 3pm

We are having a stall the above event (along with the DRS), so please pop along and see us (and the other exhibitors) if you can. Entry is free, with refreshments available. Last time we attended, two years ago, the event was very successful. It is being held at the Ashover Parish Hall, Milken Lane, S45 0BA. There is a large free car park at the venue.

We attended May's successful Chesterfield Family and Local History Fair, arranged by the Chesterfield and District Family History Society.

Latest blogs

Blogs are short articles about some aspect of local history. We use them to promote the Trust as an educational charity and our work more generally in the county.

Blogs published on our website since the last e-news are as follows:

- [DRS Feet of Fines published](#) – 19 September 2023
- [News about our forthcoming AGM](#) – 12 September 2023
- [Bess of Hardwick – born between 13 February 1521 – 12 February 1522](#) – 27 August 2023
- [Found – a Gallimore's almanack](#) – 12 July 2023
- [Markham's meal as out-going mayor – a lavish affair](#) – 27 June 2023
- [Why this bit of London is in Derbyshire – David Mellor and his legacy](#) – 2 June 2023
- [Who was the architect of Chesterfield Market Place Station?](#) – 15 May 2023

If you are reading this on your computer or other electronic device you should be able to access the particular article by clicking on the blue underlined text (known as hyper-links). Otherwise visit our website's home page at <https://derbyshirevch.org> and look for the heading 'Blog Postings'. The articles are listed underneath, by month published.

Areas where VCH has either carried out research, or where work is in progress, generally feature. Consequently, the blogs mainly cover the north-eastern part of the county. Sometimes, though, as the 2 June blog, we might cover something else. We aim to keep the content varied and publish about once a month.

You can also follow us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireVCH> and on our X account (formerly Twitter) (@VCH_Derbyshire), though we do not tend to post much to the latter.

Derbyshire VCH contacts

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Other Committee members: Mary Wiltshire, Anne-Marie Knowles and Lyn Pardo Roques.

Our website and social media



Website – <https://derbyshirevch.org/>



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireVCH>



X – formerly Twitter – @VCH_Derbyshire.