

OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Report and Accounts

1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022

Introduction

1. This report and the accompanying receipts and payments accounts for the year ending 30 September 2022 have been prepared by the Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust. The report and accounts are intended to help users understand what the Trust was set up to do, the resources available to it, how these resources have been used and what has been achieved as a result of its activities.

Objectives and Activities

2. The objectives of the Trust are to raise funds for the research, writing and publication of the remaining Oxfordshire volumes of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History (OVCH).

3. The VCH is a national project to publish a detailed history of every parish and town in the country. The research, writing and part of the publication costs of the Oxfordshire volumes has to be raised locally by the Trust.

4. In Oxfordshire there is a research team consisting of a county editor and three assistant editors who are accommodated and employed by Oxfordshire County Council subject to a legal agreement that the Oxfordshire VCH Trust pay for the employment costs of the assistant editor posts and part of the cost of the County Editor's post. Amateur volunteer groups are involved in the research process by the editorial team.

5. The activities of the Trust are to raise funds to meet these employment costs and to contribute to publication costs.

6. The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Trust provides public benefit in enabling histories of educational and community value to be made available to the public and in enabling the involvement of local groups in the process.

Achievements and performance

7. OVCH has published 20 main-series volumes (known as 'The Big Red Books') and 2 paperback volumes. The research for the final three remains to be completed with the volume on Chipping Norton due to be published in 2024; research on the Chadlington area is now also underway, leaving the Burford area still to be started.

8. During 2021-22 the funds raised by the Trust have enabled the Oxfordshire VCH to:

- Launch Volume 20 (on the south Chilterns area of south Oxfordshire) at a well-attended reception at Shiplake College in March 2022.
- Host a fund-raising lecture by Michael Wood at Merton College at the end of September 2022.
- Host a fund-raising reception and talk on our current research at St. John's College in December 2021.
- Continue research for Volume 21, focused on the town of Chipping Norton and surrounding parishes.
- Commence research for Volume 22, the Chadlington area.
- Make freely available new draft histories of Over Norton and of the town of Chipping Norton on the VCH website.
- Circulate two newsletters in print and online, and publicise its activities through the VCH Twitter account, which has over 500 followers.

Financial Review

9. Due to an unexpected and exceptional donation, the Trust's income in 2021-22 exceeded its expenditure by £26,053, leaving a balance of £236,575, with Gift Aid of £1,835 still to come in respect of donations in the period. There remains a contingent liability of up to £80,000 for redundancy of the researchers at the end of the project, leaving potentially available funds of £156,000. All of the Trust's funds are committed to meet future research costs for the project's completion. A shortfall of no more than £20,000 is anticipated for 2022-2023, and assuming similar potential shortfalls for subsequent years the current outlay for four researchers can be continued for several more years. The trustees will keep this matter under constant review, and if necessary (bearing in mind the contingent redundancy liability) will reduce the number of researchers by one at some future date, saving £50,000 annually. The Trust operated in accordance with the charity's statement on risk assessment and financial controls. The work of the research team remains essential to the high quality of the Oxfordshire VCH publications. Their continuing contribution and commitment to complete the Oxfordshire series is greatly appreciated.

10. All Trustees (including the Chairman and Treasurer) are unpaid, and have given their services voluntarily. No expenses were paid to Trustees during 2021-22. The Trust employs no paid staff.

Structure, governance and management.

11. The Trust was established in 1997 by deed.

12. The trustees met formally twice during the financial year, as well as informally at its three public events.

13. The appointment of new trustees is by resolution of the existing trustees. The number of trustees is limited to a maximum of 21 by the trust deed which also provides for an uneven number of trustees, if possible. There are currently 13 trustees. New trustees are selected for their commitment to the project, to the raising of funds, and for their particular skills and contacts.

Reference and administrative details.

14. The Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust was established by a Trust Deed on 19 September 1997. It is a registered charity, number 1064776. The Trust also operates as the Victoria History of Oxfordshire Trust.

15. The address of the Trust is c/o the Hon. Treasurer, 48 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, OX 33 1XX.

16. The following were trustees on the date this report was approved:

Prof. William Whyte (Chairman)
Mr John Harwood (Vice-Chairman)
Prof. Robert Evans
Catherine Fulljames
Major Timothy Hallchurch
Brigadier Nigel Mogg
Mr Tom Hassall

Mrs Hilary Hibbert-Biles
Mr Christopher Parker
Dr Jill Pellew
Dr Donald Ratcliffe
Mrs Sarah Taylor
Dr Michael Heaton (Treasurer)

The following trustees resigned during the financial year: Sir Hugo Brunner, Mr Christopher Butterfield. Mr John Leighfield and Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale resigned on 24 October 2022 and since the year-end.

17. The Independent Examiner of the Trust's accounts is: Andrew Rodzynski FCA, Wenn Townsend, 30 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LE.

18. The Trust's bankers are Lloyds Bank plc, Wallingford Branch, 4 Market Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EH.

OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST - YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS

| | Unrestricted Funds | Total 2021-22 | Total 2020-21 |
|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Gift Aid Donations | 20,429 | 20,429 | 18,925 |
| Non Gift Aid Donations | 157,923 | 157,923 | 117,747 |
| Bank Interest | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| COIF interest | 400 | 400 | 11 |
| Gift Aid tax repayment up to 30 September 2021 | 3,159 | 3,159 | - |
| Gift Aid tax repayment up to 5 April 2022 | 3,272 | 3,272 | 2,232 |
| Total receipts | <u>185,183</u> | <u>185,183</u> | <u>138,966</u> |

PAYMENTS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Donations towards research costs | 155,215 | 155,215 | 157,020 |
| Fundraising (see Note 1) | 1,286 | 1,286 | 701 |
| Examination of accounts | 744 | 744 | 720 |
| Internet costs | 97 | 97 | - |
| Publications | 1,788 | 1,788 | - |
| Total payments | <u>159,130</u> | <u>159,130</u> | <u>158,441</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | <u>26,053</u> | <u>26,053</u> | <u>(19,475)</u> |

Note 1: Fundraising expenditure is made up of: Printing & postage expenditure of £949 (2021: £701) and event expenditure of £337 (2021: £nil).

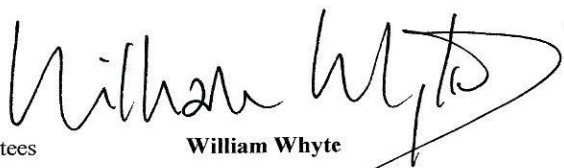
STATEMENT OF BALANCES

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Cash at Lloyds Bank at 1 October 2021 | 122,085 |
| Charities Official Investment Fund deposit account at 1 October 2021 | 88,437 |
| Surplus of Receipts over Payments, accounting period 2021-2022 | 26,053 |
| Balances at 30 September 2022 | <u>236,575</u> |

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Cash at Lloyds Bank | 147,738 |
| Charities Official Investment Fund deposit account | 88,837 |
| NET ASSETS | <u>236,575</u> |

Signed on behalf of the Trustees


William Whyte

Date

27th March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2022 which are set out on page 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
- or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A. Rodzynski

27th March 2023

A. Rodzynski FCA
Partner
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford

