

THE WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO

Registered charity no. 1196961

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023**

Introduction

This is a newly established charity designed to take over the work the Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust, an unincorporated charity (no 1102882), but from the stronger position of being a CIO: it has a legal personality, trustees' liability is limited and its constitution (following the Charity Commission's template) is consistent with modern management practices.

The trustees of the charity are required to approve an annual report and accounts prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission. This document, which must be made available to the public, is the first to be produced for this charity. It covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Its purpose is to review the charity's activities against the charity's aims and objectives. Specifically, it contains information regarding the charity's trustees and their appointment, constitution, and financial affairs. It also includes a statement of the charity's public benefit.

Charity name

The Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust CIO

Charity registered no.

1196961

Trustees

The Trust's constitution is dated 12 May 2021. It stipulates a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 20 trustees, one of whom is nominated by the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS).

The nominated trustee serves until a replacement is nominated. The remaining trustees serve for periods of up to four years, specified in the constitution and designed to ensure that all do not come up for replacement/re-appointment at the same time. Future appointments will all be for four year periods.

During the period to which this report relates, the following trustees held office.

Mrs R Addington
Mrs G Alder
Mr J d'Arcy
Mrs M Barnett
Mr C Caswill
Mrs T Dallaway
Mr M Hodges
Mr J Holden
Mr D Moss
Mr W A Perry (nominee of WANHS)
Mr M Stone
Mr I Thorn
Mr H Wright

Mr D Moss held the position of Chairman and Mr M Hodges held that of Vice-Chairman for the whole of the period.

Hon. officers

The Treasurer was Mrs T Dallaway, a trustee.

Offices

As it neither owns nor leases any premises, the Trust has no office of its own. During the year, Trustees' meetings are usually held at the Wiltshire Museum by courtesy of WANHS, but with Zoom also available for those unable to attend in person. Correspondence may be addressed to the Chairman, whose postal address is The Old Prebend House, 47 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1DE.

The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham kindly provides facilities for researchers and others engaged on Trust business, and as a depository for the Trust's official records.

Objectives

As set out in the Constitution previously referred to, the purpose ("object") of the Trust is "to advance the education of the public through knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the history of the historic county of Wiltshire (including the borough of Swindon) by researching for, preparing and writing the Victoria County History of Wiltshire, and to raise and apply the monies and commission the research necessary to achieve that purpose".

During the year, the trustees applied to the Charity Commission for authority to wind up the unincorporated Trust and to transfer its assets to the CIO. The Commission approved this application in April 2022 and the transfer of assets was made on 30 June 2022. The accompanying accounts relate to the period after 30 June 2022.

The unincorporated Trust will be wound up once necessary procedures have been completed.

Public benefit and review of activity

The Victoria County History (VCH) was established in 1899 to publish a history of every community in England. Working from original documents and extensive fieldwork, professional historians produce a comprehensive history of each parish, including its physical features, ways of life, economic activity, transport, local government, key institutions and buildings, courts and leisure activities. The production of the histories is under the aegis and technical supervision of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

Wiltshire is among the leading counties with 18 completed volumes to date. Work commenced in 1947 with financial support from local authorities (and for nine years, the University of the West of England). Following restrictions on spending by local and public authorities, the Trust undertook from 2013 to raise funds for future research and publications.

The Trust has responsibility for commissioning the historical research for future volumes. During the year work has continued on research contracts for the volume covering the Chippenham area (volume 20) and work is now well underway on a volume covering the Alderbury area (volume 21).

In addition, the Trust has been keen to support the work being undertaken by the Institute of Historical Research to complete Vol. 19 (Mere and neighbouring parishes) and has made a financial commitment to it.

Completed volumes of the VCH form a definitive record of Wiltshire's history. They are a resource for current and future generations of historians, both professional and amateur, and the public at large. As such, it is the trustees' belief that the work of the Trust is for the "public benefit", the criterion used by the Charity Commission to assess charitable status.

Fund-raising

The Trust has two principal approaches to fundraising – a garden party in the mid-summer and a series of lectures given by Zoom, by courtesy of the Wiltshire Museum's webinar, in addition to seeking donations and sponsorships. There are also the 'Friends of the Wiltshire VCH' who pay an annual subscription. Trustees have been reviewing possibilities for spreading understanding of what the Wiltshire VCH is and of its importance and, at the same time, for tapping new sources of funding.

Fund-raising is crucial to the ability of the Trust to progress work on the VCH volumes. A small group of trustees meets regularly to consider ways of raising funds and to review the outcomes.

Commissioning

As demonstrated in the accounts which follow, the funds available to the Trust have enabled work on volumes 20 and 21 to be progressed, marks of the Trust's success in meeting its aims and objectives. Subject to strategic approval by the trustees as a whole, this aspect of the Trust's work is overseen by a Project Group with advice from consultant editors and an academic adviser.

It is important that the Trust has funds to meet known commitments. Trustees have an approved policy of maintaining sufficient funds to meet the full costs of all known commitments plus a working reserve of £2000.

This report was approved by the trustees on 15 December 2023.

[signed] David Moss
Chairman

Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust
Accounts for year ending 31 March 2023

Income and Expenditure account

	1 July 2022 – 30 March 2023	2021/2*
	£	£
Income		
Friends' membership fees	1,080	1,240
Other Donations	21,453	24,654
Interest on COIF account	550	14
Bremhill project	0	2,004
Income from events	1,501	8,434
Gift aid	0	2,030
Total	24,583	38,376
Expenditure		
Administration & miscellaneous	685	491
Volume 19 production	0	0
Volume 20 production	14,210	11,350
Volume 21 production	8,200	12,000
Bremhill project	0	12,947
Funds generation costs	0	0
Kingstons	0	0
Events costs	0	838
Total	23,095	37,626
Excess of income over expenditure	1,489	749

Balance sheet as at 31/3/23

	2022/3	2021/2*	£
Current assets			
NatWest current account	22,482	18,647	
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	33,821	33,232	
CAF	4,848	1,759	
Debtor	0	0	
Total	61,151	53,638	
Current Liabilities			
Volume 20 contracts awarded and outstanding	3,050	13,900	
Volume 19 contribution promised to VCH central	2,000	2,000	
Kingtons Fund	11,250	2,500	
Volume 21 reserves	27,800	26,000	
Reserved for Bremhill project	0	0	
Website development	400	400	
General	2,000	2,000	
Sundry	500	500	
Total (excluding basic reserves)	47,000	47,300	
Net unallocated assets	14,151	6,338	

- Figures for 2021/2 are those for the unincorporated Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust whose assets were transferred to the CIO on 30 June 2022.