

THE WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST CIO
Registered charity no. 1196961

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025**

Introduction

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, covers the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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
Mrs A Loyd
Ms A McConnell
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".

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 academic 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 research for the volume covering the Chippenham area (volume 20) was completed and preparations for publication began. Work is also 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. Work on this volume is also nearing completion.

Completed volumes of the VCH form a definitive record of Wiltshire's history. They are available on line, free of charge, as well as published in big 'red books'. 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, in addition to seeking donations and sponsorships. There are also the 'Friends of the Wiltshire VCH' who pay an annual subscription. Trustees continue to review 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.

The accounts were approved by the trustees at their meeting on 6 June 2025 and the text of this report was approved electronically during the following fortnight.

[signed] David Moss
Chairman

Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure account

	YTD Mar 25	2023/24
	£	£
Income		
Friends	1,080	1,100
Other Donations	7,564	14,875
Interest	1,782	1,673
Bremhill	0	0
Income from events	4,200	6,370
Total	<u>14,626</u>	<u>24,018</u>
	0	0

Expenditure

Administration & miscellaneous	1,002	539
Volume 19 production	3,000	0
Volume 20 production	4,000	8,880
Volume 21 production	19,579	5,040
Bremhill project	0	0
Funds generation costs	0	0
Kingtons	0	2,920
Events costs	272	1,215
Total	<u>27,853</u>	<u>18,594</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>-13,227</u>	<u>5,424</u>

Balance sheet as at:

	YTD	YTD
	£	£
Current assets		
NatWest current account	877	14,357

COIF Charities Deposit Fund	37,222	35,465
CAF	14,242	15,745
Debtor	0	0

Total	<u>52,341</u>	<u>65,568</u>
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Current Liabilities

Volume 20 contracts awarded and outstanding	10,000	14,000
Volume 19 contribution promised to VCH central	4,000	7,000
Kingtons Fund	0	0
Volume 21 contracts	20,481	17,060
Reserved for Bremhill project	0	0
Website development	400	400
General	2,000	2,000
Sundry	500	500

Total (excluding basic reserves)	<u>37,381</u>	<u>40,960</u>
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Net unallocated assets	<u>14,960</u>	<u>24,608</u>
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