

**THE WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST**  
Registered charity no. 1102882

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017**

## **Introduction**

Each year, 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 2016 to 31 March 2017. 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

## **Charity registered no.**

1102882

## **Trustees**

The Trust's constitution, powers and the way it operates are set out in the Deed dated 29 November 2002, as amended on 16 October 2013. The Deed stipulates a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 trustees, two of whom are nominated by Wiltshire Council, and one by the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS).

Trustees are appointed for a four-year term at the end of which they are eligible to be re-appointed.

During the period to which this report relates, the following trustees held office. Except where otherwise stated below, the trustees served throughout the whole of the period.

Mrs M Barnett (appointed 27 February 2017)  
Dr R Blackburn  
Mr J d'Arcy  
Cllr C Caswill (nominee of Wiltshire Council)  
Prof M Hicks  
Mr M Hodges  
Mr J Holden  
Mr N J Hurley (resigned 1 September 2016)  
Mrs V Landell-Mills  
Mr F Marshall (resigned 3 September 2016)  
Mr C Newbury  
Mr W A Perry (nominee of WANHS)  
Mr I Slocombe  
Mr M Stone  
Cllr S Wheeler (nominee of Wiltshire Council)  
Mrs S Wilthew (resigned 28 October 2016)

Mrs Vicky Landell-Mills held the position of Chairman for the whole of the period. Mr M Hodges was appointed to replace Mr I Slocombe as Vice-Chairman at the annual meeting on 12 September 2016.

**Hon. officers**

The Treasurer and Secretary of the Trust are Mr J Holden (a trustee) and Mr K Strickland (a volunteer) respectively. Both are honorary positions.

**Offices**

As it neither owns nor leases any premises, the Trust has no office of its own. During the year, Trustees' meetings were held at the Devizes History Museum by courtesy of WANHS and at Chippenham Museum courtesy of Chippenham Town Council. Correspondence may be addressed to the Secretary, whose postal address is The Linnet, 20 Great Hinton, BA14 6BU.

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, public benefit and review of activity**

As set out in the Deed previously referred to, the purpose ("object") of the Trust is "to apply such monies, investments and property as the Trustees receive in their capacity as Trustees ..... for the research, preparation and writing of the Victoria County History of Wiltshire".

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 it has been able to let research contracts on the next volume (Vol. 20) covering the Chippenham area.

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**

There continue to be two principal strands to the Trust's fund-raising. First, a "Friends of the Wiltshire VCH", open to all on payment of an annual subscription. Second and very much linked to the first, a programme of one-off events most of which are open to the public at large. Two volunteers assisted with the administration of the Friends, associated activities and newsletter during the year to which this report relates.

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 Vol. 20 to be progressed, a mark of the Trust's success in meeting its aims and objectives. Trustees' plans for 2017/18 are to continue to commission work on further sections of Vol. 20 as and when funds permit. Subject to strategic approval by the trustees as a whole, this aspect of the Trust's work is overseen by a Research Group (since renamed the Project Group) with advice from a consultant editor acting as a independent contractor.

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 23 October 2017

Chairman

# Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust

## Accounts for the year ending

### 31st March 2017

#### Income and expenditure account

	£2016/17 Total	£ 2015/16 Total
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	1445	1940
Other donations	6656	6306
Interest on COIF account	72	107
Tax relief (gift aid)	0	1280
Income from events	7080	4555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15253</b>	<b>14188</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration & miscellaneous	538	139
Volume 19 production	0	2500
Volume 20 production	6750	16304
Funds generation costs	317	2035
Event costs	4156	1414
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11761</b>	<b>22392</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>3492</b>	<b>-8204</b>

<b>Balance sheet as at:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>31st March 2016</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Natwest current account	6426	10006
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	22832	15760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29258</b>	<b>25766</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Volume 20 contracts 1 to 4 remaining costs	1900	6850
Volume 20 sources & editing work	1700	0
Volume 19 contribution to VCH central	2000	2000
<b>TOTAL (excluding funds reserved for Kingtons &amp; basic reserves)</b>	<b>5600</b>	<b>8850</b>

Tax relief (gift aid) for 2016/17, at £1275, will appear in the 2017/18 accounts