



THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Charity number 1064776

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

WORKING AROUND COVID-19



Goring, one of several riverside villages covered in the forthcoming volume on the South Oxfordshire Chilterns (Volume XX). Its parish stretched up into the Chiltern hills

The national closure of archives inevitably affected our work schedules this year, but the team has risen to the challenge, rescheduling immediate plans and concentrating between April and September on online resources, and on analysis and writing up of research already completed. Despite the disruption, this has allowed us to keep to our planned publication schedule (see below and opposite), provided that the current very limited access to archives continues to improve.

COLLABORATION WITH VCH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A recent initiative is a pilot collaboration with VCH Gloucestershire, which for 3½ months is 'buying' some Oxfordshire staff time and expertise for work on the small Gloucestershire parish of West Littleton. This will raise some much-needed additional funding for the Oxfordshire Trust – essential if we are to retain our team of four and maintain our schedules – and may provide a model for similar initiatives in the future.

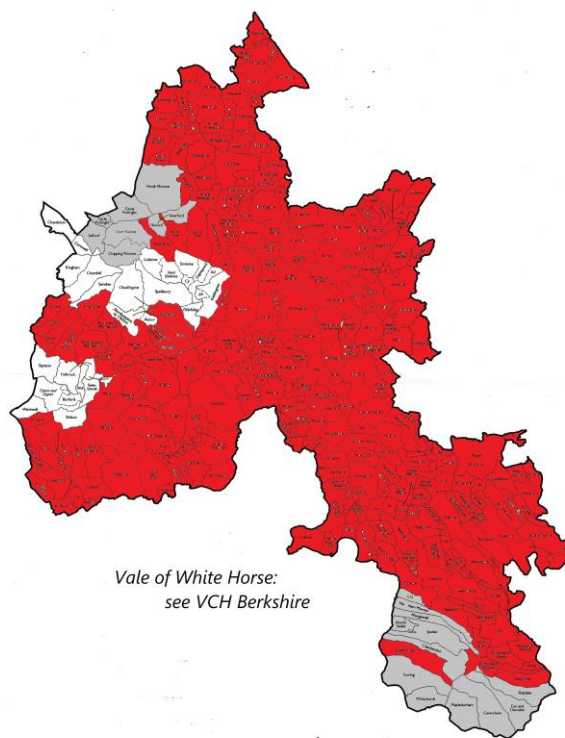
VOLUME XX (SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE CHILTERNs)

This next volume in the Oxfordshire series remains on schedule for publication late in 2021. It covers a dozen parishes in the **South Oxfordshire Chilterns**, all of them historically long thin 'strip parishes' stretching from the Thames up into the hills – a pattern reflecting Anglo-Saxon estate organization. Arrival of the railway accelerated the gentrification of larger riverside villages such as Shiplake and Goring, and from the

continued overleaf

VOLUME XXI (CHIPPING NORTON AND AREA)

With Volume XX virtually complete, new research is concentrating on the **Chipping Norton/Hook Norton area**. A draft history of Hook Norton (famous for its brewery) was posted on the VCH website (address overleaf) in April, and drafts on Great and Little Rollright, Swerford, and Salford (the research for which was delayed by national archive closures) will follow during next year. Meanwhile work has now also begun on Chipping Norton itself, where we are benefiting from a spate of recent research into the town's buildings and into its history more generally. Places to be included are: **Chipping Norton (town and parish, including Over Norton); Hook Norton; Great and Little Rollright; Salford; and Swerford and Showell.**



*Vale of White Horse:
see VCH Berkshire*

VCH Coverage 2020: red areas published, grey in progress (Volumes XX-XXI), white to be started (Volumes XXII-XXIII).

TOWARDS COMPLETION: VOLUMES XXII AND XXIII

During lockdown some preliminary online research was begun towards Volume XXII, to cover the area between Chastleton and Kiddington in west Oxfordshire. That will leave just one volume (XXIII, on the Burford area) to complete the series. **But for that we need your help:** see overleaf for how to donate.

Volume XX continued

late 19th century Caversham became a densely settled suburb of Reading. Nonetheless much of the area remains secluded and thinly settled. Parishes covered are: **Caversham, Checkendon, Crowmarsh Gifford, Eye and Dunsden (incl. Sonning Common), Goring, Ipsden (incl. Stoke Row), Mapledurham, Mongewell, Newnham Murren, North Stoke, Shiplake (incl. Binfield Heath), Whitchurch.**

GOOD PROGRESS ... BUT WE NEED YOU

To retain its current experienced team of four, the Trust has to raise (including on-costs) over £150,000 a year. A major 2014 legacy has now been spent, creating a recurrent shortfall and putting our plans for completion at risk. We therefore urgently need your help to ensure that Volumes XX (The South Chilterns) and XXI (Chipping Norton and area) are completed on schedule, followed by the two remaining volumes in the series (on the Burford and Chadlington areas).

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TRUST

Our continuing success in supporting the Oxfordshire VCH project depends on attracting donations from individuals and from a range of grant-giving bodies.

You can make a contribution by:

- **Cheques** made payable to 'The Oxfordshire VCH Trust', which can be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at East House, Rokemarsh, Wallingford OX10 6JB. If you are able to gift-aid your donation we can increase the value of the donation by reclaiming the tax paid – a gift aid form has been sent out with this newsletter.
- **Regular donations by bankers' standing orders.** A standing order form can be downloaded from the VCH Oxfordshire website (see opposite) or requested from the Hon. Treasurer.
- **CAF charity cheques.**
- **Bank transfer** into the account of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust, sort code 30-99-03, account no. 01228711.

Donors are acknowledged in the published volumes unless they choose otherwise, listed as Sponsors (over £5,000), Benefactors (£1,000-£4,900), Donors (£100-£999), or Other Supporters (under £100).

VCH ONLINE

Published volumes (up to Volume XVIII inclusive) are available free of charge at British History Online: www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch--oxon. Meanwhile draft work-in-progress is available as PDFs at www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/oxfordshire

along with background information on the series.

VOLUME XIX (WYCHWOOD) STILL AVAILABLE

VCH Oxfordshire's most recent publication (Volume XIX: Wychwood Forest and Environs) was launched in September 2019, and has been well received, recent reviews calling it 'comprehensive', 'immaculate', 'a fascinating read', and 'a triumph'. The book (409 pages with over 100 maps and illustrations) will not be available online for a couple more years, but is available to buy through bookshops or from Boydell & Brewer at <https://boydellandbrewer.com/a-history-of-the-county-of-oxford-hb-24919.html>

WHAT IS THE VCH OXFORDSHIRE TRUST?

The Trust was set up in 1997, to raise funds towards the completion of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire and its 'gold standard' histories of every town and parish in the historic county. The research and writing is carried out by a team of four professional full-time historians. In partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and the Universities of Oxford and London a total of 19 volumes out of 23 has been published so far, with another nearing completion, and work on Volume XXI well under way. The Trust is currently raising three quarters of the project's annual funding through donations from individuals, institutions and trusts.



Banded stonework in Hook Norton

THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

(registered Charity 1064776)

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