



THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Charity number 1064776

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024

CHIPPING NORTON VOLUME LAUNCH 25 OCTOBER



Hook Norton Brewery, established by the farmer and maltster John Harris c.1849. The present building dates chiefly from 1898–1900.

Our [Chipping Norton area volume](#) (Volume XXI) will be formally launched on 25 October in the iconic surroundings of Hook Norton Brewery. Around half of the volume focuses on Chipping Norton itself, whose history is traced from its 12th-century origins (and before) through to the present day, looking in detail at buildings and urban growth; at social, political, and economic history; and at religious history, town government, and landownership. The other half examines the histories of the surrounding rural parishes of Hook Norton, Over Norton, Great and Little Rollright, Salford, and Swerford, including farming and rural trade and industry. The volume (403+xvi pages, with 109 maps and illustrations) can be ordered direct from the publishers [Boydell and Brewer](#) – watch out for time-limited discount offers. Copies will also be available through public libraries, and (in a few years' time) online.

*Available to order
from [Boydell &
Brewer](#) (full price £95)*

403+xvi pages

*109 maps and
illustrations; 8 colour
plates*



Places covered: Chipping Norton; Hook Norton; Over Norton; Great and Little Rollright; Salford; Swerford.

VOLUME XXII NEWS

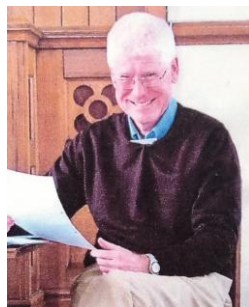


Kiddington Hall, built for Mortimer Ricardo c.1840–2 to designs by Sir Charles Barry. The house replaced a 17th-century predecessor, and occupies the site of the medieval manor house.

With the Chipping Norton volume about to appear, current work is focused on a band of West Oxfordshire parishes stretching from **Chastleton** on the Gloucestershire border through to **Enstone** and **Kiddington** on the east, taking in **Chadlington**, **Chilson** with **Shorthampton**, **Churchill**, **Cornwell**, **Kingham**, **Sarsden**, and **Spelsbury** (including **Ditchley Park**). Those will be published as Volume XXII in a few years' time, leaving just one more volume needed (on the Burford area) to complete our coverage of the pre-1974 county.

Draft histories of five of those places ([Chastleton](#), [Churchill](#), [Cornwell](#), [Enstone](#), and [Sarsden](#)) are now available on the VCH Oxfordshire website (address overleaf), with more to follow. Chastleton is probably best known for its striking Jacobean manor house, built for the lawyer Walter Jones c.1607–12 and now owned by the National Trust. Several parishes were dominated by major estates focused on 'big houses' set in parkland, in particular those at Sarsden, Ditchley, and Kiddington, while another emergent theme is Roman Catholicism, particularly amongst local gentry families: one owner of the earlier house at Chastleton was the 'Gunpowder Plot' conspirator Robert Catesby. Enstone, by contrast, is a prime example of a complex multi-township parish which contained no fewer than nine separate settlements, some of them deserted in the late Middle Ages. It was also the site of the 'Enstone Marvels', a whimsical grotto and water gardens set up as an entrepreneurial tourist attraction in the 1630s.

OBITUARY: DR KATE TILLER AND LIAM TILLER



It is with great sadness that we report the deaths in April and May 2024 of Dr Kate Tiller and of her husband Liam, who will have been known to many VCH friends and supporters. Kate was a founding fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford, and a distinguished historian, who amongst her myriad activities chaired the VCH Oxfordshire Trust for nearly 20 years from 2003 to 2021. Liam served as Trust treasurer for much of the same period, alongside supporting several other local history groups and pursuing his own local history research. Both are sadly missed.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TRUST

The VCH Oxfordshire Trust's purpose is to help fund the completion of VCH Oxfordshire's unique and systematic histories of every town and parish in the historic county, as part of a [national project](#). Working in close partnership with **Oxfordshire County Council** and with the **Universities of London and Oxford**, it provides three quarters of the Oxfordshire project's annual research costs. You can help through:

- **Regular donations by bankers' standing orders.** Forms are obtainable from the **Hon. Treasurer** (treasurer@oxonvchtrust.org.uk), or from the VCH Oxfordshire website (see opposite) under 'Support VCH Oxfordshire'.
- **Cheques** (including CAF charity cheques) made payable to 'The Oxfordshire VCH Trust', sent to the **Hon. Treasurer Dr Michael Heaton** at: 48 High St, Wheatley, Oxon. OX33 1XX.
- **Bank transfer** into the account of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History Trust, sort code 30-99-03, account no. 01228711.
- If you are able to **gift-aid** your donation we can increase the value of the donation by reclaiming the tax paid. Gift aid forms are available from the Treasurer or VCH website as above.

Donors are acknowledged in the published volumes unless they choose otherwise.

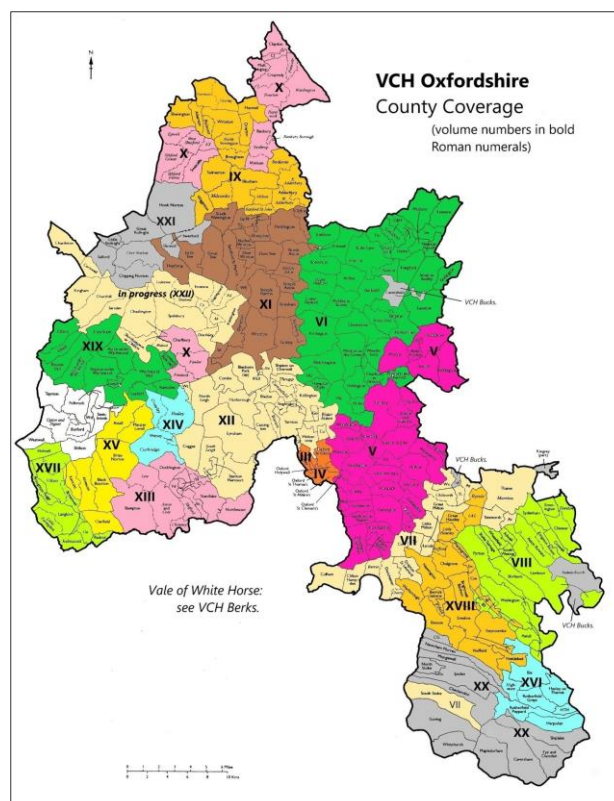
HOLD THE DATES

Our annual Christmas lecture and reception for donors and other supporters will be held on **Tuesday 10 December** at **St John's College, Oxford** (5-7pm). Please contact the Hon. Treasurer (details opposite) if you would like to be added to our mailing list. Booking is also now open for [Chipping Norton: Archaeology, History and Buildings](#) on 16 November - a day school at Rewley House, Oxford, organized with **Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education** to mark the publication of our Chipping Norton volume.

ACCESSING THE VCH

Draft work-in-progress is available as downloadable PDFs on the VCH Oxfordshire website at www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/oxfordshire while **published volumes** up to Volume XVIII (with more to follow) are available at British History Online: <https://archive.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch--oxon>

The **physical books** are [available to buy](#) (see VCH website), or through public libraries and [Oxfordshire History Centre](#). For more on current research, contact the County Editor (simon.townley@history.ox.ac.uk).



VCH Coverage 2024, showing volumes published and in progress. For full listings see the [VCH Oxfordshire website](#) (address above).

THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

(registered Charity 1064776)

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