



THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Charity number 1064776

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2022

VOLUME XX (SOUTH CHILTERN) PUBLISHED



The launch of VCH Oxfordshire XX (The South Oxfordshire Chilterns) at Shiplake College, 18 March 2022.

Our South Chilterns volume (VCH Oxfordshire XX) was published in February, and launched at a well-attended event held in Shiplake College (near Henley) on 18 March. The 509-page volume (which includes 117 maps, plans, and other illustrations) covers a dozen ancient parishes in the south-east of the county, contained within a large southward loop of the Thames. Caversham, uniquely, became a densely settled suburb of Reading (across the river) from the late 19th century, although the area as a whole remains predominantly rural. The volume completes our coverage of that part of the county, following our earlier volumes on the Henley-on-Thames area (2011) and Ewelme Hundred (2016).

The volume (price £95) can be ordered online at <https://boydellandbrewer.com>, and is available in Oxfordshire libraries and at Oxfordshire History Centre.

Places covered are: Caversham (with Kidmore End); Checkendon (with Littlestoke and Wyfold); Crowmarsh Gifford; Eye and Dunsden (with Sonning Common); Goring and Goring Heath; Ipsden (with Stoke Row); Mapledurham; Mongewell; Newnham Murren; North Stoke; Shiplake (with Binfield Heath); Whitchurch.

VOLUME XXI PROGRESS (CHIPPING NORTON AREA)

Our first draft texts on the market town of Chipping Norton are now available on the VCH Oxfordshire website (address overleaf), supplementing those already available for surrounding rural parishes. They include major sections on the town's origins and physical development and on its buildings, with others

continued overleaf

MICHAEL WOOD LECTURE 26 SEPTEMBER: THE STORY OF ENGLAND: KIBWORTH REVISITED



We are delighted that the well-known historian and broadcaster Michael Wood has kindly agreed to give a public lecture in support of VCH Oxfordshire on 26 September (6-7pm), at Merton College in Oxford.

Michael is well known for his books and TV series on topics as diverse as Anglo-Saxon kings, medieval villages, and the histories of India and China. In this lecture he will revisit his **Story of England** series, which – rather like the VCH – explored national history through the experiences of a single place, **Kibworth** in Leicestershire. Working with the community, and drawing on Merton College's extraordinarily rich archives, the series unearthed tales of peasant households, Lollards, religious nonconformists, framework knitters, and post-war housing estates, in what the Independent called 'the most innovative history series ever made for TV'. Using slides and video clips, Michael will look again at the series, assessing new finds, and exploring its long-term impact on the development of community history.

Tickets cost £15 including a glass of wine after the lecture, and can be **bought online** through **Eventbrite** (direct link <https://tinyurl.com/2p9dtaxe>). **Proceeds** will go to the **VCH Oxfordshire Trust** in support of its fundraising for completion of the VCH Oxfordshire series. *If you are booking and are willing to pay more, please see overleaf for how to donate to the Trust.*

VOLUME XXII NOW UNDER WAY

With our Chipping Norton work now well advanced (see opposite), research has begun on some of the parishes to be included in Volume XXII, which will cover an area of west Oxfordshire stretching from Chastleton on the Gloucestershire border across to Spelsbury and Enstone (see map overleaf). Initial work is focused on Churchill and Sarsden, of which online drafts will appear in 2023.

continued from overleaf

(including sections covering the town's economic history) to follow shortly. We plan to have the whole volume in draft around the end of the year, followed by revisions, mapping and image-selection, and by publication around the end of 2024. That will leave just two volumes needed to complete the Oxfordshire series, with work on Volume XXII already under way.

NEW DRAFTS ONLINE

Draft sections on aspects of **Chipping Norton's** history are now available on the VCH Oxfordshire website (address opposite), with more to follow over the coming months. Those supplement existing drafts on **Hook Norton, Great and Little Rollright, Salford, and Swerford**, to which **Over Norton** has just been added. Drafts on Churchill and Sarsden (for inclusion in Volume XXIII) will appear during 2023. The website also includes information on upcoming **talks and events**, which are additionally publicised on our **Twitter** account (@VCH Oxfordshire).

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TRUST

The Trust relies on donations from individuals and from a range of grant-giving bodies. **You can make a contribution by:**

- **Regular donations by bankers' standing orders.** A standing order form can be requested from the Hon. Treasurer Dr Michael Heaton (email: treasurer@oxonvchtrust.org.uk), or downloaded from the VCH Oxfordshire website (see opposite) under 'Support VCH Oxfordshire'.
- **Cheques** (including **CAF charity cheques**) made payable to 'The Oxfordshire VCH Trust', which can be sent to the Hon. Treasurer 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.

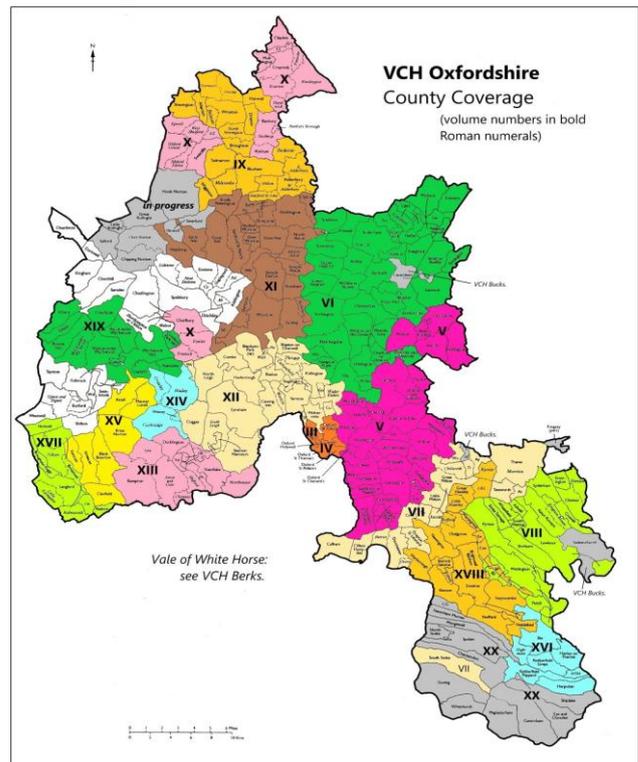
ACCESSING THE VCH

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 are available at British History Online:

www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/vch-oxon

The **physical books** (including Volume XIX on **Wychwood Forest**, published 2019) are available to buy (see VCH website), or through public libraries and record offices including Oxfordshire History Centre.

For more on current research, contact the County Editor (simon.townley@history.ox.ac.uk).



VCH Coverage 2022: showing volumes published, and Chipping Norton area work in progress (top left in grey). Work has also begun on neighbouring Churchill and Sarsden.

WHAT IS THE VCH OXFORDSHIRE TRUST?

The Trust was set up in 1997, to raise funds towards the completion of VCH Oxfordshire's 'gold standard' histories of every town and parish in the historic county, as part of a [national project](#). Working in partnership with **Oxfordshire County Council** and the **Universities of London and Oxford**, it is currently raising three quarters of the project's annual funding through donations from individuals, institutions and trusts.

THE OXFORDSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

(registered Charity 1064776)

President: Marjorie Glasgow, BEM, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

Trustees: Prof. William Whyte (Chairman), John Harwood (Vice-Chairman), Dr Michael Heaton (Hon. Treasurer), Prof. Robert Evans, Catherine Fulljames, Timothy Hallchurch, Tom Hassall, Hilary Hibbert-Biles, John Leighfield, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Nigel Mogg, Christopher Parker, Dr Jill Pellew, Dr Donald Ratcliffe, Sarah Taylor