

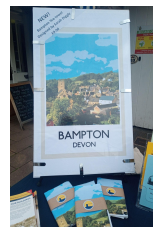
Good old British weather

What strange weather extremes we have had through May and into June. From brisk chilly winds to sweltering heat it seems to be a typical British summer. We have had a steady trickle of visitors but hope the numbers and frequency of visitors will pick up properly now the summer is really here. At least in the hot weather, the church feels a bit warmer than it was in the depths of winter!

We have a busy season coming up and will need your help as much as possible so read on and have your diaries to hand.

The headlines from our Trustees meeting on Tuesday 14th June are:

- The new free, dry store is now ours and we will be moving a number of our collection items in during the next few weeks.
- Rachel and Alison are sourcing and ordering new stock items and more details will follow soon. With our focus on a smaller number of good quality attractive items, we have already seen improved sales and stock moving quickly. Of course, we already have our new design tea towel on sale and it seems very popular.



- Walkers are Welcome (WaW) status has been achieved for Bampton and we are now responsible for maintaining the status. This is not onerous and will not cost us anything. It will give us the opportunity of spreading the word about Bampton as a great walking destination through more avenues. The intention is to benefit the town as a whole, with both day and longer stay visitors. We intend to celebrate this new status on the August bank holiday walk event.



You will see the WaW logo on more of our posts and on the website with a link to the WaW pages.

- This year we will sponsor the annual Scarecrow trail. This has been great each year it has been possible to hold the August long event and this year the theme will be Bygone Bampton. The only costs to us will be some small amount of printing of trail maps and site numbers but it will help to promote us.
- We await an update on the church heating – as soon as we know we will let you know.
- As you will have seen on Alison's email about Volunteer Rota, we are trialling opening Thursday & Friday 11 am – 1 pm, Saturday 11 am – 3 pm. We hope this will give you more opportunities to sign up for a session. We can't do this without you!

Jubilee weekend



Thanks to the hard work of a number of Trustees and other volunteers we had a successful presence at the Rec for the Community Fun Day on Jubilee Saturday. We had a number of visitors and took £110 worth of sales – very encouraging and much needed to keep us in good financial health. Marian worked hard on posting, on Facebook and Instagram, a number of photos of former royal events in Bampton with the oldest dating back to the Queen's coronation. These prompted many responses with people who recognised themselves or older family members. Such is the benefit of social media, reaching people who no longer live in Bampton but can and do connect with us.

Calendar events and baking bonanza – a reminder!

As you already know we have more free events planned during the year. We have the last bank holiday walk (29/08), our Tom Macmanaman talk (12/10), Open Heritage Week model railway (15-18/09), GeoLab event, in association with the Geologist Association & Hugh Saxby (08/10). We offer free refreshments to people attending any of these events and we have found that visitors really appreciate the refreshments and are generous with their donations. This is a really important income generator for us and we couldn't do this without the generous donations of cakes and cookies from volunteers. Please try to help us by baking for an event. If you prefer to bake in advance that's fine, just let us know and we will find room in one of our freezers.

New volunteers

We are very pleased to welcome some new volunteers since our last newsletter. Penny is a technical whizz and is helping Judi and Humphrey with the sound effects for our new children's stories that will go onto our listening station in a few weeks.

Tim and Sue have joined us as rota volunteers but have already helped out on the jubilee stall and are keen to learn much more about Bampton.

Elise is qualified in collection digitisation and cataloguing and is already proving a great help to Ken. Elise is also very familiar with the new digital software package we hope to buy this year and will be able to help train up other volunteers in its use.

Carole is just about to start her induction and will be a rota volunteer and is also interested in recording older residents' memories of Bampton.

Welcome back to Fred who has come back now shifts are more suited to his availability. Edward is a rota volunteer who has lived in Bampton for many, many years and shares his knowledge and memories with volunteers and visitors.

We hope to see all of our new volunteers at our volunteer sessions so they can meet as many of you as possible and really get the feel for the friendly and welcoming bunch that we are.

Radar key for the disabled toilet

Some very important information for all volunteers! Peter has kindly provided us with a Radar key which will give us access to the disabled toilet. So no more searching for 20ps when you are in a hurry. It is in the top draw of the unit, where the keys are kept.



Heritage Open Days – 8th – 18th September



Ken will be creating a railway themed exhibit which will take up the whole of our two main artefact display cabinets (not the shop cabinet). He will set this up in August.

From 8th – 10th September, there will also be display boards in the Centre, one of the old railway photos and one with maps of Bampton before the railway, on railway route plans and after the railway opened.

These will be moved to the Community Hall for the main Open Heritage Week event starting in the hall on Thursday 15th September.

We will be very busy during these days and hope to be able to keep both hall and Centre open. This means we need your help as much as possible. Alison has already sent out an email asking for your availability. Even if you can do an hour on any of the days it would help. If you already know you will not be available please let Alison know as it helps our overall planning.

Facebook & Instagram

We have made great steps in increasing our Facebook following and now also have an Instagram account too, which is doing well. Both of these will promote the Centre to a wider audience. If you have a Facebook or Instagram account please follow us. Likes and comments, especially if they are longer than four words will mean our accounts are pushed out into the social media universe, so please like and comment on our posts when you can.

2023

It is difficult to believe but next year will be our 10th anniversary! Time has passed so quickly since we opened in September 2013 and so much has happened. We have much to celebrate – and to reflect on. We intend to have an anniversary party but as yet have no firm ideas of what shape that will take. We want you to be fully involved in our tenth anniversary year. Please let us know your ideas and how you would like to be involved. Why not work with a Trustee on a project or one-off event? Don't be shy – talk to us!

Next Trustees Meeting: Tuesday 26th July at 9.30am – Fivebee, Bouchier Close.

