



Autumn is with us – with beautiful colours, damp and misty mornings and of course Bampton Fair. We are coming to the end of our season and as you already know we will be closing the Centre in the church from the end of the week. We will reopen at the beginning of March 2023.

We will not be hibernating during the winter, and we have plans for many exciting activities out and about in Bampton with plenty of opportunities for you all to be involved.

The headlines from our Trustees meeting on Tuesday 18th September are:

- We will be talking to all our local businesses and accommodation providers in December to collaborate on a Heritage Supports Business initiative to help the economy of Bampton throughout 2023. Businesses will be invited to an event on 6th December at the LARC for a discussion on what they need to promote themselves and how we can help.
- Visitors to Bampton are important for the whole economy and we are aiming to improve our role as a Visitor Information Centre. We need volunteers to be part of this winter project.
- The LARC Trustees have agreed to BHVC having a presence there over winter. We will be using the 3 internal noticeboards and two windowsills for displays.
- We are in discussion about a pop-up shop during November and December – more news to follow.
- Farming project – Bampton Scouts have confirmed their involvement and we await a meeting to agree a project plan. There are a number of different roles for volunteer participation in this project.
- Our Treasurer, Rachel, drew Trustee's attention to some overspends in our budget. Whilst we have funds to vire to manage small amounts we must be prudent and have no unnecessary spending. Our next meeting will look at setting our budget for 2023. We will take every opportunity to reduce expenditure and raise income through other means this winter when the Centre is closed.
- Next Trustees meeting on Tuesday 29th November at Great Western, High Street.

Calendar events

Christmas Fair - We are going to collaborate with Bampton Primary School's PTFA in running this year's Christmas Fair. It will be on December 2nd from 3.30 to 6.30 pm in Riverside Hall. This will be on the same evening as the town lights the Christmas trees and hopefully, the shops will be open later too. We will be setting up from 1.30pm and will be looking for help from Volunteers with this, running the stalls, refreshments etc and of course, setting up and clearing up afterwards.



BHVC Street Stalls – We will be having regular street stalls from the end of November till December to help boost our sales and keep our presence in Bampton going. Weather permitting, we will have stalls on the following dates between 10 am & 12 noon. There will be a rota sent out and we would love your help setting up and running the stalls.

They dates are:

November 5th, 19th and 26th, December 3rd and 10th.

My Bampton is an opportunity for local residents to come and chat with us about their memories of growing up, living and working in Bampton and how the town and environment have changed over the years. We will be hosting an open invitation afternoon in the Community Hall on Thursday 12th January from 2.00-4.00. We will be able to scan photos and documents and will record conversations that happen as people share what they remember. We need volunteers to help – serve refreshments, welcome people, help conversations to get started and use the scanner and the recording equipment. If you are interested in any of those roles, please let Alison know. We can give training in the use of the equipment.

New volunteer

We are very pleased to welcome June Cruikshank as a volunteer. June has already become involved and attended the Tom Talk and our coffee and chat session. Do introduce yourselves to her at our forthcoming events.

Tom Talk

We had an excellent attendance to our talk delivered by Andy Macdonald – From Legs to Wheels. Over 40 people came, some of whom were new to the Heritage Centre. Andy's research and presentation made a very entertaining evening and I know from feedback that we all learnt new things. Andy and Humphrey will be recording the presentation pictures with a voiceover by Andy which will go online during the winter.



The Reredos

BHVC was invited by the PCC (Parochial Church Council – our local church committee) to be part of the recent visit by the Diocesan Chancellor. The Chancellor is a High Court judge appointed to resolve issues which haven't been able to be determined in church settings. Judi and Andy made representations as part of the hour long visit, to support our church representatives. The issue is whether or not the reredos, which was removed from the East window in 2015 for repair work to the walls, should be replaced in that position or elsewhere in the church. Our church congregants and the local community have overwhelmingly asked that the east window be kept clear of the reredos to let the light shine into the church. The local diocese could not agree and hence the need for higher level decision making. We will not know the decision until after Christmas. Andy's research and display of a range of photos showing the changes in the position of the reredos over many years were very helpful. The Arch Deacon from Exeter was present and expressed his thanks for the partnership and work of BHVC – an important recognition and acknowledgement of our role, especially with our 10th anniversary year coming up.

Michael Browning

We are sorry to have to share with you the very sad news of the death of Michael, who was one of the founding Trustees of BHVC. His professional experience and technical knowledge were a vital part of the project. I remember him particularly for his sense of humour and wit. Meetings in which Michael was a member were always enjoyable!

Katrina, our former chairman, worked from the very start with Michael and shares these words with us.

'Over the years I got to know Michael we both got involved in various local projects. Michael was an active supporter of the Bampton Business Group and from a simple suggestion of a 'visitor centre' put forward at one of the Business group's meetings he worked with early trustees to develop the idea into the reality of the Bampton Heritage & Visitor Centre. We all had quite different skills and roles and Michael's practical nature and design ideas, enabled him to single-handedly design and build the display boards. He also masterminded the housing for the Bampton railway model, enabling us to put the model on show to the public. He organised the large brown tourist signs at the entrance to the town and for many years took the lead role in organising the Christmas trees around the town, a tradition that is now continued and appreciated by many. He has certainly left a lasting impression on the town and all who knew him and will be sorely missed by his friends.'



