



Newsletter December 2022



December is here – and this is our last newsletter of the year. We've had such a busy, exciting, and successful year and that's down to all of you. Whatever contribution you make in your chosen volunteering role with BHVC we are immensely grateful for the time and expertise you bring with you.

How would we round up the year? Covid recovery funding through Mid Devon District Council was a lifeline but we saw fewer visitors overall in town and the area. The lack of church heating meant the Centre was too cold to be at all comfortable for very much more than an hour or so (even with our warm BHVC fleeces) and potential damage to stock and artefacts with prolonged cold exacerbating damp conditions.

It's not all doom and gloom though. Even with these difficulties, we have had a successful year, with new shop stock, more activities and events for children and families, bank holiday walks, a great Heritage Open Days railway event and the recruitment of some new volunteers. A few of the years' achievements will be in our annual report, which is already in draft form.

The headlines from our Trustee's meeting on Tuesday 29th November are:

- We are planning our budget for the coming year. Nationally, small charities are going to have a tough year. We are all feeling the pinch of the rising cost of living, energy prices and inflation. We may have fewer visitors to Bampton and a corresponding reduction in shop sales and donations. Every activity we have planned for our 10th anniversary must cost as little as possible and ideally be delivered at no cost. We have a responsibility to be prudent in our financial management and not spend beyond our means.
- Farming project – Judi had a very positive meeting with the Scouts and leaders, and we will be working together to build our archive of the history of a number of our local farms, and we are confident this can be done at no, or very little, cost. We will begin this project in earnest in the New Year.
- We are planning a major recruitment campaign for the New Year. We want to recruit two new Trustees and we will be looking locally but also further afield to attract people with skills we currently lack as a Board of Trustees. Look out for our campaign publicity and if you are on Facebook and Instagram, please like and share our posts as these then spread further afield. Spread the word in any way you can. We plan to put posters in the restrooms of large local employers – if you have any helpful contacts with Heathcoats, Petroc and other such business please let us know.

- We have a new volunteer who is taking on the role of our secretary. Chris Price brings with him years of experience in project management and voluntary activity. Chris won't be a Trustee, with the role being a non-executive member of the Board. You will all meet Chris over the next few months as our New Year events unfold.

Trustee recruitment

All of you are of course able to apply to become a Trustee. If you are interested, please give Judi a ring on 07595 497476 for an informal chat, with no obligation to take it further.

Tom Talk – From Legs to Wheels

Andy and Humphrey have recorded Andy's splendid talk which is now available on YouTube. If you put the title in the search tab you will find it straight away. Having attended the talk I find the video equally fascinating with the added advantage that you can pause it to look more closely at the presentation pictures.



Calendar events – a reminder!

My Bampton - We are hosting an open invitation drop-in 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.

Connect with our Collection

Our second 10th anniversary activity will be a roadshow taking the Centre out to the town. Ken and Judi will be in various venues in town with items from our collection. You will be able to see and touch the objects, look at photos and read documents which you probably haven't seen before. We will be able to tell you about their history and spark discussion about them. We will let you know when and where we will be around town – pop in and see us and bring your friends and neighbours. We may be able to recruit some more volunteers!

**Have we mentioned
that 2023 is our 10th
anniversary year?**



This is the great badge that Marian has created to go with our logo for the whole year in all publicity. We will be working hard on social media, local radio and press to spread the word about the events we have planned throughout the year. You can be involved in all or just some of them. Talk to any of the Trustees if you want to find out more, and we will keep you up to date with these newsletters. If you are expecting visitors, why not try to plan their stay around our events. That gives you something to do on the doorstep and helps us with perhaps some sales and donations.

Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year

