

2016

**Bampton
Heritage and
Visitor Centre**

**3rd Annual
Report.**

Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre 3rd ANNUAL REPORT

January – December 2016



Some of our volunteers - December 2016 “we couldn’t do it without them’

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Another productive year has drawn to an end with the continued support of our volunteers, the local community and St Michael and All Angels church.

I think it is well worth noting once again that locating the Heritage & Visitor Centre within such a beautiful grade one listed building with the full support of the Parochial Church Council, has given a remarkable sense of community cohesion, professionalism and sustainability to our Centre.

One key to our success is the low overheads which we incur in direct contrast to the outstanding benefits of our location being historic, spacious and central to the town.

Without the pressures of trying to meet high overheads, the Trustees have been able to concentrate on constantly improving the way the Centre is run, maintaining and improving our displays and educational content whilst exploring and developing new features to enhance the visitor experience.

We were immensely proud to be involved in the ‘All Aboard’ Trail – a Tivvy Bumper project led by Tiverton Museum, discussed later in this report. This project helped engage the wider community and brought families and railway enthusiasts to the town during our summer season.

A key area we have also been working on behind the scenes is our ‘Listening Project’ which is discussed in detail later in this report.

During 2016 we introduced some new Bampton related merchandise such as the Ordnance Survey 'Dinky Map' and the Bampton Bag. Along with the production of the 'Bampton Walks' booklet (for which a grant was obtained), these products have helped maximise our retail sales figures and promote the town.

Our merry band of volunteers welcomed 2160 visitors during 2016 and their enthusiasm and commitment has enabled us to maintain our established opening hours. The section later in this report demonstrates the vital part the volunteers play in our success. As our Treasurer's report shows we made successful applications during the year for a number of locally available grants for which we thank the organisations, individuals and Trusts involved.

With the launch of new projects already lined up for 2017, we look forward to another exciting year serving the town and its visitors.

Centre Activity – Facts and Figures at a glance

	Visitor numbers		Sales £		Donations £		Town trails £	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Jan	86	48	65	66	11	13		
Feb	58	50	3	43	28	10		
Mar	55	75	34	46	26	12		
Apr	347	210	100	70	77	81		
May	382	196	106	82	95	48		
Jne	262	200	93	70	110	73		10
Jly	226	343	54	188	93	113		15
Aug	361	318	154	148	118	111		25
Sep	239	231	87	64	94	102		25
Oct	302	416	168	72	94	73		
Nov	52	73	102	96	32	13		
Dec	52	32	77	58	3	2		
TOTAL	2422	2160	1042.4	945.43	780.69	649.24	0	75

CURATOR'S REPORT

The enhanced railway exhibit always seems popular - especially with the connection to the 'All Aboard' Trail - and has been retained for the time being. An exhibit based upon education in Bampton is being planned for 2017 – a number of artefacts have been located and will be borrowed in due course.

The diversity of items on display continues to be enhanced by new donations – most recently including a match safe and a fragment of medieval(?) pottery.

Russ Davies, a long term supporter of BHVC from Texas, sent an electronic file with a large number of press cuttings covering the period 1818 - 1945. It has yet to be decided how best to use these. He also sent a series of handwritten signatures from the 1911 and earlier censuses. These are in electronic format and may be of interest to residents of the town. It has yet to be decided how best to show these.

A safe storage for items not on display has been set up. Our display boards and other equipment are also stored there.

The search function on E-Bay for items of historical interest has yielded mainly pictures and postcards. A couple of small old maps have also been purchased for very small sums as have a couple of postcards. Pictures new to the curator have been copied from the E-Bay site to form the basis of a collection.

BHVC participated in Bampton Spring Fest with a gazebo near the motte and a display showing something of the history of Bampton Castle. A children's trail around the site was also organised.

A number of Devon Museums Association meetings have been attended - our details are advertised on their very popular web site. From 2017 the Centre will also be listed in the Devon Museums booklet, reputed to be the most popular booklet of Devon attractions available.

The Mid-Devon Attractions Group has been reformed as the Mid Devon Attractions Association – money has been obtained for a branding exercise to raise the profile of the area to increase the number of visitors to the Mid-Devon area and persuade them to stay longer

HERITAGE CENTRE INITIATIVES IN 2016

1 The 'All Aboard' Trail

Tiverton Museum planned a visitor trail based on their Tivvy Bumper engine and commissioned mini sculptured models of the engine which were placed around Tiverton, at Cold Harbour Mill in Uffculme and in Bampton, between July and October.

Bampton, led by BHVC, raised money for two models through sponsorship from the Town Council, Exmoor Rotary Club and other individuals. We decided to have one of the models painted in the original GWR livery and one to be painted using designs suggested by children from Bampton School.

This project brought us together for the first with some of our local artists, Liz Parker, Penny Richards and Jennifer Tylden-Wright, who gave over 100 hours of their time collectively to the project. They worked with Bampton School to inspire the children in a competition to draw their favourite things about Bampton and then successfully translated the winning pictures into the design for the model on the Stage, called 'Our Brilliant Bumper'. All of the students at Bampton School became engaged with contributing their ideas and from the 104 entries, 10 were shortlisted. Every student received a certificate from BHVC for taking part.

Bernard Parker painted the GWR model in its original colours. The GWR model was a wonderful exhibit, as this was the only model in the whole 'Trail' in original GWR colours and the only Bumper model actually on the route of the old Exe Valley Line.

This 'Trail' attracted over 100 extra visitors to Bampton to get their Trail passports stamped and many more came just to look.

At the end of the 'Trail' in October the models were auctioned off to raise funds for Tiverton Museum. We wanted to retain the two models in Bampton if we could, but unfortunately the GWR model was very popular amongst the bidders who were train enthusiasts and proved to be too expensive. However, thanks to a generous donation given specifically for 'Our Brilliant Bumper' (seen below), it was acquired and remains a permanent feature on the Stage.



2 The Listening Project

Many of our visitors are local people who have been very keen to share with us their memories of living in Bampton. This has inspired a project to begin to collect and store these oral histories for current and for future generations. A number of BHVC volunteers have been recruited and trained by a professional and experienced oral historian to conduct and record interviews with individuals which will be stored electronically.

Six people have now been interviewed and the equipment has now been purchased to store the recordings of their memories. This listening equipment will be positioned in the Heritage Centre so that visitors can listen to the 'voices' when they visit.

The first theme for the interviews has been Life at School in Bampton. The Trustees would especially like to thank Humphrey Berridge who has been working with Derek Webster on this project. He has provided recording and editing expertise as well as helping us think through the future potential of this type of work.

Once launched in April 2017, we are looking to develop a similar system to store our current range of films.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Centre could not function without our volunteer workforce. During this year we have inducted four new volunteers and said goodbye to some as they moved away from the area or decided to use their time differently.

This year has been as busy and varied as ever for all volunteers. They have been actively involved in the Centre developments and have had the opportunity to extend their skills with the Listening Project and Family History searching.

Following a suggestion from one of our volunteers we successfully sought funding for individual Fleeces for all our volunteers to wear whilst on duty in the Centre.

The 4 volunteer training sessions in 2016 have provided an opportunity to find out more about the projects as well as update our knowledge of the history of the church and to share ideas about the future. At these sessions we heard that volunteers wanted to know more about how the trustees work, and to feel closer to the decision making processes. Trustees listened and now circulate agendas and minutes of meetings - meetings are also open for any volunteer to attend.

We record the hours our volunteers do and are encouraged by the Heritage Lottery Fund to calculate their time in monetary terms using a nationally recognised formula. We are sure this is an under estimate of the time everyone gives to the continuing success of the Cent

Calculation of volunteer hours 2016

ONS category: Personal, professional and clerical @ £12.43 per hour)		
Rota hours	1560	
Volunteers events and training	86	
Sub Total	1646	£20,460.00
ONS category: Professional @ £19.01 per hour		
Trustees meetings	55	
Trustees additional hours	435	
Listening Project	60	
All Aboard Trail Project	100	
Town trails	30	
Sub Total	680	£12,927.00
Grand Total		£33,386.00

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

At the beginning of the year we received the last tranche of our generous 'setting-up' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and began to settle into a more routine financial pattern. Our aim is that we should cover the basic overheads and expenses of the Centre with the donations and profit from sales that we receive there, and that we should look for specific grants and donations for any major projects. In both these respects it has been a very successful year.

Grants and generous specific donations have covered the equipment for setting up the Listening Project, the purchase of fleece jackets embroidered with the BHVC Logo for our Volunteers, and our sponsorship of the 'All Aboard' Trail together with the acquisition for permanent display of the model 'Our Brilliant Bumper'.

We start 2017 with a comfortable bank balance and confidence in the viability of the Centre.

The audited accounts can be found below and will be submitted to the Charity Commission for information.

BAMPTON HERITAGE & VISITOR CENTRE

Accounts for year ending 31st December 2016

INCOME

2015	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Heritage Lottery Fund	1299		1299
100 Grants	1940		1940
1290 Donations	410	1432	1842
1185 Shop Sales	200	1166	1366
265 Town Walks		120	120
4 Bank Interest			
Fundraising		493	493
2844	3849	3211	7060

EXPENDITURE

1440 Professional Fees			
818 Equipment & Materials		39	39
Listening Project	310		310
49 Volunteer Training		493	493
28 Volunteer Travel			0
545 Learning Materials			0
651 Publicity & Promotion		75	75
Fleeces	350	164	514
448 Overheads		282	282
713 Shop stock	200	896	1096
45 Administration		199	199
'Tivvy Bumpers'	1300	380	1680
4737	2160	2528	4688

(1893)	Net Income	1689	683	2372
7137		(1299)	6543	5244
5244		390	7226	7616

5291	Balance at Co-operative Bank			7569
26	Petty Cash at Centre			47

(73)	Unpresented cheques			
5244	Total Assets			7616

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

Following a discussion with our volunteers it was decided to establish an election process for Trustees from 2016. All volunteers would be able to have one vote. Once the Trustees were elected they would elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The re-election of Trustees would be staggered over two years (for continuity). So 3 would agree to stay and 3 would stand down/stand for re-election.

The new process was implemented at the AGM on 19 April 2017 and 3 Trustees stood down, Judi Thomas, Liz Redfern and Derek Webster and successfully stood again for re-election. The current Trustees are therefore:

Chair: Katrina Munro
Secretary: Judi Thomas
Treasurer: Barney Hopkinson
Curator: Dr Ken Mills
Trustee: Liz Redfern CBE
Trustee: Derek Webster

FUTURE PLANS AND IDEAS FOR 2017

We have a lot of ideas for next year and of course our current projects will continue.

Future dates:

- There will be a Family History workshop for volunteers on 11 March 2017
- The Listening Project will be launched in 3 April 17 and we will continue to develop this resource through 2017.
- An on-line booking system for volunteers to book their shifts from 1 April 17.

We are also working on plans to:

- Develop an exhibition related to the history of education in the town;
- Have a magnetic jigsaw of the Town in place for visitors, whatever their age, to 'play with';
- Work with a drone photographer to get some unusual shots of the Town to add to our photo and DVD collection;
- Install an automatic system to contain some of our popular short films to show through the TV with the touch of a button, without the need to load a DVD;
- Work with Bampton Scouts on a developing a Church Trail

Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre Trustees
24 March 17