

Bampton Library And Resource Centre Supporters

**Next event: Saturday, 25 April, 6.00 pm at the Community Hall
Presentation, Vote, Bring & Share Supper**

Dear Everyone

As Lao-Tzu said: “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. Significant steps have already been taken towards the relocation of Bampton’s Library into the much larger Old School, Station Road, an historic building of Bampton, which offers a large, light space in its central, and much safer, location adjacent to the car park. (It’s the building with an unbecoming garage door on the Station Road side, and four diamond-paned windows overlooking the churchyard.)

The Old School is a very much larger property, twice the size and more of the current library, thus able to accommodate all the requirements of a vibrant 21st century Library, and in addition affords a tremendous amount of potential for community activities not currently available in Bampton, once the building is made habitable. The Old School in its later life (it ceased being the Bampton Primary School in 1938) has been a store for building materials and now requires complete refurbishment.

The new **LibraryAnd Resource Centre Supporters’ (LARCS)** Group became a properly-constituted body with a management team elected, at another very well-attended meeting on 5 March. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped, and also the extremely generous contribution of £211.86 towards interim costs; the first deposit in our new bank account.

Sub-Committees for Building Programme Management, Grant Applications, Fund-raising And Events, were established at the March meeting, in order to implement and manage the building programme, to identify funding sources and to raise and manage funds in order to achieve this.

The county-wide Community Pilot Scheme, in which Bampton was chosen as a Pilot Community, was approved by the Devon County Council Cabinet on 11 March; the scheme will run for twelve months until March 2016.

Work began on a full Building Specification on 12 March. This, plus two sample roofing quotes have now been received, and a further meeting of LARCS has to be called to consider the feasibility of the project with the updated projected costs.

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The LARCS' Membership will also need to vote on its re-forming into a Legal Entity. It is also mandatory for LARCS to become a Legal Entity, *possibly* a Registered Charity - but there are other types. Martin Rich, Community Development Advisor from Devon Communities Together, will advise the Management Committee on what form of body LARCS needs to become at a Workshop on 14 April. Acquiring charitable or equivalent status is a complicated matter and guidance essential through what Martin described as a minefield. We cannot apply for grants, not enter into a Legal Agreement with the Landlord, without having gone through this process, for which we will need the services of a Solicitor. Chris Gregson, Partner at Ashfords, has agreed to act for us, at reduced fees. Initial funding of £1,000.00 has been received from Cllr Polly Colthorpe's Locality Budget and will be used towards professional fees and associated administrative costs incurred.

Talks are ongoing with the Owner of the Old School, Stan Vincent, and his daughter, Sarah. If LARCS approve the project, a Legal Agreement must be drawn up to protect the interests of all parties.

Thank you to all those, and there have been a great many, in particular the Action Group Team Members, who have given their time and energies in all sorts of ways, in working towards a new Library and Resource Centre for Bampton and reaching this stage on the journey. The Parish of Bampton Library Action Group has served its purpose, and now is happy to re-form as a part of the LARCS' Group.

The LARCS' Group is completely inclusive. It's a community-owned and -led organization. There is no subscription. If you would like to become a Member, enabling you to make your views known and have a vote, receive updates, and if you wish to become more directly involved in any way, or make any enquiries, or have any ideas and suggestions, please do contact us. Everyone is most welcome.

The next meeting, with a 'Bring & Share Supper' afterwards, will be held on **Saturday, 25 April at 6.00 pm at the Community Hall** when, following a brief presentation on the current situation, important decisions will be made about Bampton's Library. I very much hope you will be able to join us.

Yours sincerely

Janet

Janet M Crabtree
Chairman, LARCS

Bampton Library And Resource Centre Supporters

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Information about our library, and about LARCS, can be found on the **Bampton Web site:** **bampton.org.**