

Dear Everyone

The LARCS' team was kept very busy on Saturday, 30 May, for the first Bampton Spring Fest, when we were able to offer a peek through the keyhole of the proposed site for Bampton's new Library And Resource Centre. There were competitions to guess the book in the bottle (one for adults, one for children), plenty of books for sale at a knock-down price, plus our very own Limited Edition book bags @ £2, featuring the new LARCS' logo. There was also an opportunity, an ongoing project, to sponsor and write one's name on a slate with 224 slates sponsored thus far. The sheets of named slates will be bound into a book: the aim is to reach 1,500, being the total population of Bampton Parish!

We raised £430.60 on the day of the Fest with a further £35.40 received this week from those unable to come on Saturday, making a grand total of £466.00, of which £46.60 has been given to the Spring Fest Fund. Thank you very much indeed to everyone who contributed kindly and generously in so many and various ways to making this event a rip-roaring success. Best of all, was the great feeling of encouragement, interest in and support for the project. Our next ventures will include the Writing Competition, 'Bampton about Bampton', details of which are attached, and a Garden Party, details to be announced soon. We are also hoping to run an event to launch and promote the Devon County Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge.

Meanwhile, the LARCS team is meeting representatives from community agencies including Youth Services and Age UK, to involve them in the planning process for our 'Community Hub'. We are also grappling with mighty application forms for registration as a charity with the Charity Commission and for funding from the Big Lottery Fund 'Reaching Communities'. We need to formulate a Business Plan and should be delighted to hear from anyone with experience of this, who would be willing to assist in its preparation and associated research.

If you might like to help in any way at all, please do get in touch by e-mail or phone (01398 332883).

With all good wishes and very many thanks, on behalf of the entire LARCS' team.

Janet