

*Dear LARCS*

Thanks so much to all our supporters. More 'slates' were sold raising £198.35 towards the new roof at the Charter Fair. LARCS' leaflet distribution has resulted in £1,320 of donations to date (donations may be made at any time!) and generated further offers of help and ideas. Over £27,000 has now been raised or pledged including valued support from our Town, District and County Councillors, which is very heartening.

It's unreasonable to expect a small rural community like ours to find the level of funds required for the new LARC, however. The team has submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage application to Power to Change for £150,000 and awaits a visit by 2 Assessors whose decision will be made in December. We have no guarantee of success, but we're doing our level best to provide a new LARC for everyone in and around Bampton for 2016. If the result from Power to Change is negative, we shall submit an alternative application in December and would know the outcome by February.

We can attract investment in the project solely for all the new services, activities and events the new LARC will provide as library costs (including the crucial 6 hours' librarian availability) must be funded by Libraries Unlimited South West (as DCC Libraries Services will become in April 2016). Investors will not countenance any part of its statutory responsibility being funded by them.

The LARCS' team including our professional advisors will be meeting representatives of local organizations and potential service providers and clients when we welcome our first Patron, Neil Parish MP, this week. Unfortunately, we've had to limit the number of invitations to this event, but hopefully there will be another opportunity to meet Neil before too long (possibly including MP's Surgeries in the new LARC). Friday's event is being hosted jointly with the Heritage Centre which has shown the way to realize the results of a community vision; we hope to work collaboratively with the HC in the future.

Please look out for 2016 events, dates and details tba. In January, a LARCS party (wouldn't it be *wonderful* if we could be celebrating a positive funding decision?) February, a special evening with the Revd Tony Grosse *With Great Pleasure* (à la Radio 4). Our AGM's in March. Please do pass LARCS' news to friends and family who aren't on e-mail.

For the very latest, catch any passing LARCS, visit the Bampton web site, e-mail: [bamptonlarc@outlook.com](mailto:bamptonlarc@outlook.com); use [www.facebook.com/bamptonlibrarydevon](http://www.facebook.com/bamptonlibrarydevon) or telephone (01398) 332883.

*With warmest wishes as we move towards the year's end*

*Janet*

Janet M Crabtree, Chairman, LARCS