

Dear LARCS

Building work, I'm delighted to report, began on the Old School yesterday – right on schedule. LARCS' Building Project Manager is Hugh Saxby.

Humphrey Berridge is taking photos at each stage – please see the 'before' photos on the Bampton.org web site follow the link to the LARCS' project via the library page. <http://www.bampton.org.uk/>

The LARCS' team continues hard at work – top of the (very long!) 'to do' list is ensuring that the services chosen by the community are lined up and ready to be phased in once the building work and fitting out is completed. August and September will be *exceptionally* busy months! Nearer to opening we'll be able to publicize a weekly schedule and our aim is to open in the latter part of August/beginning September. *Are you good at planning your week? We should be very grateful for help with bookings for the new LARC.*

Age UK Mid Devon is one of our weekly Information and Advice pop-up shops. This will take place Wednesday mornings 10.00 – 13.00. There's an opportunity to receive free training if you might be interested in being on the other side of the desk. *If this is for you, please let us know.*

“Training entails 6 sessions of 2 hours per session, plus resources and reading material to take away covering: money & budgeting; benefits and entitlements; domestic issues including energy, grants; social care and housing; problem solving; signposting to relevant partner organisations; safeguarding, safety and support.

Training will enable each volunteer to provide information and advice on a range of issues. Volunteers will be fully supported, all materials provided, shadowing for first 2 sessions and regular supervisions to ensure volunteers are confident and empowered.”

There is much enthusiastic interest in a **Mums' and Toddlers' Group**. We hope to hold weekly sessions on Fridays, 10.00-12 noon. *Are you a Mum, or know a Mum, with toddler(s) who might be interested? Please contact us if so.*

We are awaiting news from Libraries Unlimited to confirm arrangements for the removal of Bampton Library from its current premises into the new LARC.

Many people in Bampton wear more than one hat, a clear advantage for our working partnerships. LARCS envisages close collaboration with the **Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre**. (Its AGM is on 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19 April.) *Would you like to participate in the Listening Project on Education?* LARCS would particularly like to hear from anyone with memories of the Old School (when it wasn't quite so old!).

We're interested in hearing about other Centres and how they work, and learning from their experiences. An expedition is soon to be mounted to the Ockment Centre at Okehampton another old but bigger school than ours.

We look forward to seeing as many LARCS as possible at our book stall at (or near (dependent on the scaffolding situation)) the **Old School at the Spring Fest Saturday, 14 May**: further details soon.

Please note the LARCS' AGM in your diaries: **18.00 on Monday, 23 May in the Riverside Hall**. We hope as many people as possible will attend and become members of LARCS. Membership will include entitlement to vote on all the important issues concerning our brand new LARC.

Another date for your diaries is **19.00 on Friday, 24 June at the Riverside Hall** when ***Murder is a LARC!***, a Murder Mystery written especially for LARCS by Wendy Boothroyd, will be performed by Bampton Players. Tickets @ £14.50 include supper with the entertainment and will first be on sale at the Spring Fest.

The new LARC belongs to, and is available for, all the people of the Bampton area. *Please contact us if you have ideas for activities and events you would like to see taking place there.*

Very many thanks to everyone for all the many and different ways in which you have supported LARCS already. Please do encourage others to join us.

With the warmest of Spring greetings

Janet

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LARCS now tweet (as they do!): our twitter handle (?) is @bampton_larcs