

# Bampton Heritage and Visitor

## Volunteer Spring newsletter

Greetings everyone - enjoy catching up with our news

**In April we hit 10,000 - that's the number of visitors we have welcomed and entertained in the Centre since we opened. Quite a landmark for us and a testament to everyone who has been involved in any way - well done all of us!**

### **AGM**

22 people attended this year's AGM. We heard from Katrina who presented her chairman's report for the year 2017 which was another rewarding and productive year for us with good numbers of visitors, group visits, more family activities, the Tivvy Bumper and new volunteers. Katrina gave special thanks to Derek Webster who is retiring as a Trustee. Derek has given hours of his time to his role and in particular was key to the success of the Bampton part of the All Aboard trail and our two splendid Tivvy Bumper models.

Barney presented the audited accounts. We are no longer dependent on the original Heritage Lottery funding and we are able to cover our running costs comfortably from sales, donations and charges for specific group visits.

We had a suggestion to investigate a email group of chat room only for volunteers, to help us all keep in touch with each other between volunteer meetings and to pass on snippets of interest. We are investigating this and will keep you up to date with what we can arrange.

### **Election of Trustees**

This year, with the retirement of Derek Webster there was one vacancy for a Trustee. Notification of the vacancy had been sent out in advance. Wendy Boothroyd was nominated and seconded and was elected. Katrina warmly welcomed Wendy to the team of Trustees.

### **Annual Heritage Lecture**

Thanks to a suggestion at last year's AGM, we are to hold the first in what we hope will become an annual event. **Dr. Todd Gray** FRHistS, MBE is a historian of the county of Devon, England, based at Exeter University. His talk is 'Bad behaviour & Bampton in the 1500s'. The date, in the autumn, will be confirmed soon.

## **Buildings project**

We have submitted an application the Heritage Lottery Fund - they were our original funders and encouraged us to go back to them with new projects. We know from our town trails and questions and comments from residents and visitors that there is great interest in our town buildings. We are applying for funds to enable us to: be trained to research the social and architectural history of key buildings; to collect further oral memories from residents of living, studying or working in these buildings and to create portable displays that we can share with other communities.

## **Bampton Fair Day**

It may seem far away but we would like to ask you well in advance for help on Fair Day. Having discussed the pros and cons of last year's arrangement where we did not have volunteers in the Centre, this year we decided to staff both the Centre and the Town Centre Information Stall. If you could offer an hour or two during the day in one or other location, please let one of the Trustees know.

### **Family History Enquiries - new alphabetical indexes to Book of Bampton**

Don't forget you may find a visitor's relative in the Book of Bampton (red cover) - not only do they love to see their family featured in the book - at only £9.99 they probably might want to buy a copy!! (Sale copies are stored in the bottom middle drawer, along with other shop stock.)

To help you find any relevant entries in the Book of Bampton, we have printed out two alphabetical indexes of people/places mentioned in the book in text or in photographs. Please familiarise yourself with these indexes which have been placed inside the family history file in the bottom right drawer, along with the church burial record folders. If you would like some guidance on how to use these, please just ask. Many of our volunteers have had fun locating a visitor's relative in the graveyard.

If anyone would like further help with their Bampton family history just take their name and phone number and write in the volunteers' log or pass to Katrina who will follow it up

## **WW1**

We intend to commemorate the anniversary of Armistice Day and would very much like to hear from you – or friends and family who live in Bampton – if you have photos of the day and how you celebrated here, that we could scan and use in a small display.

### **New volunteers**

We have 33 volunteers at the moment but still find it difficult to fill rota slots. We are always keen to recruit new people and your help would be much appreciated. When you are down for a shift, why not invite a neighbour or friend to come with you – an introduction in this way can feel more welcoming. If they are then interested in doing it again we may have another volunteer in the making!

We will be advertising in Signpost and in the summer community newsletter. If you have any other ideas please let us know. Do you think a slot on a local radio show might work? What stations do you listen to?

### **Date of next Trustees meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at Liz Redfern's house – 4 Bathern Close. The meeting will start at 6.00pm and should finish by 7.30pm. Please come along and find out more about the business side of our work.