



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023

Present 16 people

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Secretary had received apologies from Humphrey Berridge, Marian Girling, Pippa Griffith, Fred Leach, Rachel Macdonald, Andy Macdonald and Derek Webster.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 were received, agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3 Chairman's report and presentation of the annual report for the year 2022

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to our 9th Annual General Meeting and presented her first Chairman's report. Judi has been involved from the very beginning – when the idea for a Heritage Centre was mooted in 2011 and has seen many changes and much progress over the years. Having been secretary for 11 years, becoming the Chairman has been a great privilege.

2022 was a year which has seen plenty of activity with the added challenge of our usual unpredictable weather, continuing Covid fears and cost of living increases towards the end of the year. We have had still not recovered our pre-Covid visitor numbers but nonetheless visitors have been coming in, buying from the shop and the outlets in town and giving donations. We said goodbye to Liz Redfern when she stood down as Chairman and as a Trustee. We said goodbye to Mike Browning, who was one of our original trustees.

The year that was 2022.

We re-opened in February after our winter break.

MDDC granted money for towns in its district to have a town map/plan to help recovery. We were consulted very late in the day but were able to correct some inaccuracies. The town plan is installed on the wall of the public toilets at the Luke Street end of the car park.

Wendy Boothroyd and Rachel Macdonald created the 5 Churches self-guided walk leaflet to celebrate national church week. The leaflet is still available for anyone who wants to walk to each church in the Hukeley mission.

Children and families' events: Geo walk in May– where Hugh Saxby took families around town to find evidence of Bampton in deep time. Taking our heritage origins to their very roots! New video now available. Fossil detectives in June and Geo Lab in October. Exmoor Dark Skies – a walk through our solar system for

residents and visitors and then a repeat with craft activities for our local cub scout group. Important to reach younger people and presenting our history in new dynamic ways.

Exmoor Character Cottages approached us and asked if we would take part in a podcast which they started producing during lockdown to keep their profile high ready for visitors after restrictions were lifted. We have done three podcasts with them now – great fun and another way to have our information out and about.

June saw the late Queen's Jubilee and we had a stall on the Motte with displays of photos of past celebrations and stock for sale.

August saw the launch of Bampton's Walkers are Welcome status. Following the successful work of the initial steering group, BHVC has taken on the maintenance and development of the award. Within this our bank holiday walks fit well, along with other walking initiatives in town.

This year, BHVC hosted the annual Scarecrow competition with the theme of Bygone Bampton. We saw some excellent scarecrows with names like

This year Heritage Open Days weekend welcomed Chris Hewitt with his amazingly accurate working model of Bampton station. The quality of his work was admired and enjoyed by over 400 visitors. Many of these were local residents and former residents who chatted together over tea and cake sharing memories of catching trains, where they left their bikes, running to catch the train in the nick of time.

Our inaugural Tom Talk was in October. Our annual heritage lecture is now the Tom McManamon lecture in memory of our great friend and historian who died in 2022. At the beginning of the talk, Humphrey gave a short homage to Tom. Our Tom Talk was given by Andy Macdonald with the title of From Legs to Wheels and was very well attended, even though the evening was dark and wet. The other video of Andy's talk Putting Bampton on the Map is also on YouTube and linked on our website.

New stories on the listening box – thanks to Humphrey for help with the recordings and to Penny who is a sound FX whizz. You might think that stories don't need sound effects, just the voices of the characters but they absolutely do! Make sure you take a listen when you are next in church. Thanks for their voices go to Alfie, Molly, Sonya, Alex, Noah, Geoff, Penny, Hugh, Paul and Simon.

We welcomed Chris Price as our secretary. Chris brings great experience of business and voluntary activity and a very valuable fresh pair of eyes to the non-exec role (i.e., not a trustee).

In June, we were asked to contribute to a visit by the Diocesan Chancellor who was to determine the reinstatement or repositioning of the reredos. Andy Macdonald and I were able to show photographs of the reredos in place over the east window and having been removed from the window over the years. The hearing was very significant, and the PCC was promised a decision after Christmas. Diocesan representatives were very vocal in wanting the reredos to be replaced covering the window, but we hope that our local case is the one that wins. The decision is still awaited.

The church heating has been a problem for over a year. With temperatures at an unbearably low level we made the decision to close early and for longer over winter. This was to look after all of our volunteers, but to also protect our shop stock, collection pieces and other items from prolonged damp and cold.

Since re-opening, we have seen a reasonably steady number of visitors. It is still very cold but should warm a little when the weather warms over the coming months. We hope the heating will be fixed before the winter. We have offered our help to the PCC in any fund-raising activities.

The chairman thanked

- Rev Kev, Sue Leach, Tony Mount, Julia in the church office and the PCC who we hear want us to continue to be in the church so licence renewal will begin shortly.
- External sales outlets – The Bridge, Six on Castle and The Deli
- Tiverton museum and visitor information service
- Humphrey Berridge – who adds to our YouTube collection of videos, always proving popular and getting so many views it's amazing. Keeps our website up to date, loaning the recording equipment and making the recordings accessible
- Our unsung heroes – those partners, spouses and friends of Trustees and volunteers who do tasks, small and large behind the scenes and are much appreciated.
- All my fellow Trustees
- All volunteers

4 Treasurer's report and presentation of the examined accounts for the calendar year 2022

The Chairman presented the Treasurer's Report and was pleased to draw attention to the continuing healthy financial position of the Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre.

BHVC thanks our Independent Examiner, Geoff Girdlestone, for his time, help and guidance in preparing these accounts.

The accounts are divided into two sources of revenue – Restricted and Unrestricted.

- **Restricted funds** or grants or donations - only used for the purpose for which they are given.
 - In 2022 BHVC was awarded 3 grants totalling **£1,320**.
 - Expenditure on projects during the year, walking events and COVID remedial action, totalled **£272**.
- **Unrestricted funds**
 - monies raised by BHVC Volunteers through activities such as shop and stall sales, town trails, events etc.
 - **Unrestricted Income totalled £5,206.**
 - Opportunities to raise money in this way have been scarce this year, with the Centre being closed across the winter.
 - BHVC ventured out to new venues such as Craft Fairs and Tiverton's Pannier Market
 - Thank you to The Bridge, Bampton Deli and 6 On Castle for stocking our items – a useful source of income
 - **Unrestricted expenditure totalled £4,032.**
 - New stock items
 - a tea towel designed by a local artist,
 - the Bampton bag has been updated
 - Christmas cards which sold out this year.
 - A new range of greeting cards has been introduced

- **Net income for 2022 = £2,418**
 - **Total holdings of cash in hand or at the bank (restricted and unrestricted) = £14,171**
 - **Stock value = £2,002.**
 - **Assets** have depreciated by £636
- This stable financial position is due to hard work by Trustees and Volunteers, and support from local business and members of the community - whose endeavours continue to keep the Centre viable. Thank you

The 2023 budget was presented

BUDGET 2023

CATEGORY	£
ADMIN	50
EQUIPMENT	315
EVENTS	647
MARKETING	50
MUSEUM COLLECTION	130
OVERHEADS	900
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	313
SHOP	1,350
SUBSCRIPTIONS	140
VOLUNTEER SUPPORT	108
TOTAL	4,003

There were questions from the floor as follows:

- What were the costs for the church? It was explained that this is about to renegotiated with the PCC as we were reaching the end of the current 10-year agreement, but it was running at around £300 per year currently.
- It was requested that we understand the profit from stock to understand the return on investment made. This should identify the individual sources such as the Heritage Centre, Stalls and third-party sales

The following documents were approved and are now are formally adopted:

- Financial regulations: Proposed by Wendy Boothroyd and seconded by Liz Redfern
- Reserves Policy and Operating Budget: Proposed by Wendy Boothroyd and seconded by Alison Brooker
- Budget 2023 (as presented above) : Proposed by Ken Mills and seconded by Tim Holden

There were questions regarding the 2023 budget.

- The Museum Collection costs were queried and Ken Mills explained that they related to costs associated with printing, laminating and storage of photographs for display.
- Clarification was sought on where the church costs were in the budget and requested greater visibility. It was explained that the church costs were in the “overheads” line but it was acknowledged that these can be made more visible.

5 Election of Trustees.

Three Trustee terms of office end: Alison Brooker, Ken Mills, Rachel Macdonald.

Nominations have been received and approved as follows:

- Alison Brooker (1 year term): Nominated by Liz Redfern and seconded by Judi Thomas
- Rachel Macdonald: Nominated by Judi Thomas and seconded by Ken Mills and Wendy Mills
- Ken Mills: Nominated by Rachel Macdonald and seconded by Wendy Mills

6 The year ahead

This year is our 10th anniversary. To mark this great milestone, we are holding 10 events many of which would benefit from additional volunteer support. It is very important to share and celebrate this with residents who have been so generous in loaning or giving us objects and memories for our collection which has grown hugely over our 10 years. A celebration day will be on Wednesday 20th September.

- Farm history with the scouts
- Digital archive used for scouts' project as a trial
- Volunteer outing to Tiverton Museum – not too late to sign up Weds 26/4 10.00-12.30
- Quiz Friday 12th May
- Walks Bank holidays – you could lead or be backstop
- Town walks – main town and new themed walks – become a leader
- Local history month in May – recording memories
- Need new trustees – come to our meetings, become a shadow trustee, spend a day in the life of a trustee

Judi Thomas confirmed that the following farms were involved in the Farms Project; Lower Bowbier, Weston's, Sparkhayne and Benschayes.

We were asked about our plans for a 10-year celebration. It was confirmed that we will be holding an anniversary day on 20th September. Ideas from trustees and volunteers would be welcomed.

7 Volunteer news and views – your thoughts and ideas

The following was received

- Do we hold a list of future projects? It was confirmed that we are working on an update to the 5 year strategy for BHVC
- Wendy Boothroyd proposed a future event/events based on art exhibitions. These might involve known and budding artists. The expectation is that BHVC would receive a percentage of any sales. It was acknowledged the publicity for such an event would need to be wider than just the local community.
- Wendy Boothroyd suggested extending the current Farm Project to include farm trails.

8 Close and refreshments

The meeting was closed at 8pm