

# Barnwood Circle Round Up

December 2022



## Hello

Welcome to the December edition of the Barnwood Circle newsletter "Round Up". In this edition, find out about the latest meetups, the Empowered Employers campaign website and the Digital Inclusion Fund. There is also a link to the film we made at Together with Barnwood and an invitation to our Annual Members Event in January.

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## Review day



**We held an Experts by Experience Review Day on 14th November at Llanthony Secunda Priory in Gloucester.**

11 Barnwood Staff were joined by 10 Experts by Experience, who are also Barnwood Circle members, to review all of the projects that have taken place this year.

It was great to hear about the positive impact for everyone of being involved in these projects. We also heard about the overall project outcomes. It was a very moving and productive day as we reflected on the Trust's co-production journey.

Participants mentioned that their involvement in Experts by Experience projects was purposeful, worthwhile and that they had felt valued. Many people also found it rewarding to be able to contribute to projects where there were tangible outcomes.

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## Meetup 'round up'

As we reach the end of the year of Barnwood Circle meetups we ended with ones this week in the Forest of Dean and Stroud.



We have held almost 30 meetups, online and across the county in 2022. We have discussed **Transport, Access to Green Spaces and Employment** and heard the views, ideas, and experiences of over 100 people.



To date, our members number 75. That's 75 people from around the county who are passionate about making a difference to the lives of disabled people, neurodivergent people and people with mental health challenges.

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## Empowered Employers campaign

The Empowered Employers website is now live. You can visit the website by going to [www.empoweredemployers.co.uk](http://www.empoweredemployers.co.uk)

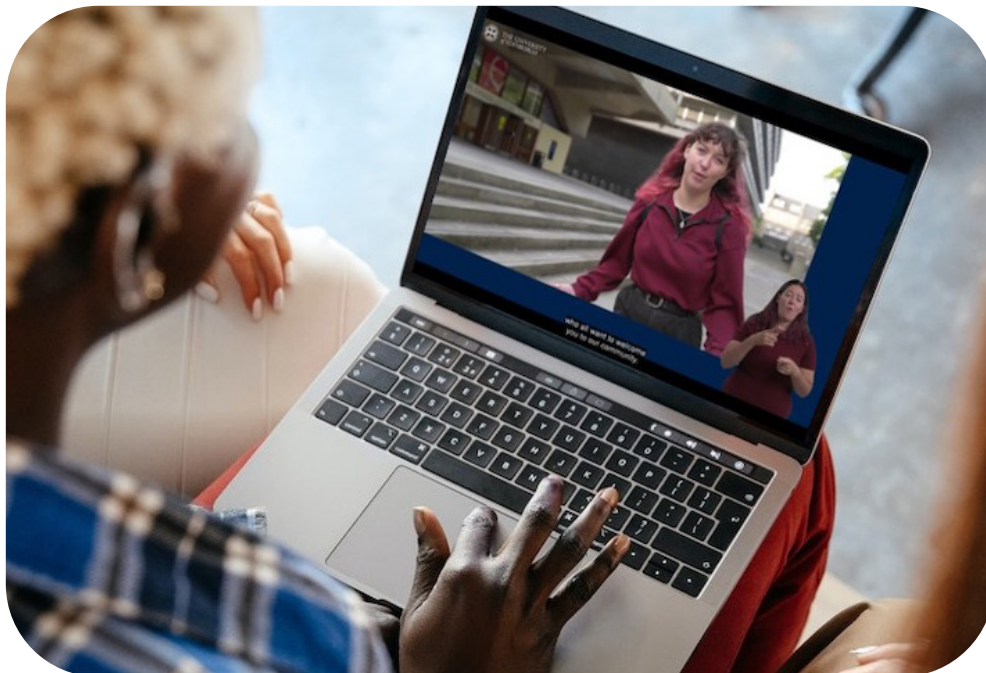
Disabled people, neurodivergent people and people with mental health challenges face a complex range of barriers to accessing meaningful employment. These barriers show up in attitudes, financial barriers, spaces, policies, and practices.

Empowered Employers has been designed by a team at Barnwood, with a group of organisations and businesses in Gloucestershire including Creed Catering Services, Clean Slate CIC, Hooray Recruitment, Hydro Aluminium and Renishaw.

“...employing disabled people will give me even more problems **SOLVERS!**”

Alongside the partners, a group of Experts by Experience are also working with us; people with a lived experience of disability and mental health challenges to help us shape the campaign. These Experts by Experience are Barnwood Circle members and are vital in the development of this campaign. We would like to personally thank those 6 original Circle members and our 2 newcomers to the group, without whom we would not have been able to launch a clear and impactful campaign to be proud of.

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## Digital Inclusion Fund announcements

**As we reported in the last Round Up, over the summer, Barnwood has taken applications for a new Digital Inclusion Fund.** We've worked with a 'Lived and Learned Experience Funding Panel' which included 5 Barnwood Circle members.

This funding was for projects that help to remove barriers for people who want to be a part of the digital world. After receiving 14 applications, the panel made recommendations for 6 projects to be funded and the Barnwood Trust Board of Trustees agreed with the recommendations.

These awards have now been given and we announced these decisions on our website [barnwoodtrust.org/news/digital-inclusion-fund](https://barnwoodtrust.org/news/digital-inclusion-fund)

# Together with Barnwood event

On Thursday 3rd November 2022 we held 'Together with Barnwood' at Kingsholm Stadium in Gloucester. Over 60 people joined Barnwood Trustees and staff for this annual sharing event. It was great to have so many Barnwood Circle members there.

This event was planned by a team including Barnwood Trust staff, Trustees and Experts by Experience with the aim of being an interactive meeting which gave everyone who attended a chance to hear about the work of the Trust over this past year.



On the day there were presentations from our Strategic Development Team on our **Strategic Partnerships** and our **Place-based Development** work; from our Insights Team on their **Housing and Opportunities Survey**; and from our Funding team on our **Grants to Individuals** programme.

Before the event started we caught up with the presenters and recorded highlights from their presentations to share with those who were unable to attend. You can watch this film by visiting our YouTube channel at

[Youtube.com/@barnwood\\_trust](https://www.youtube.com/@barnwood_trust)





**barn  
wood circle**

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**Annual Members  
Event**

## What's coming up in 2023

**You are invited to our Barnwood Circle Annual Members Event.** This is an accessible and interactive event, for Circle members to come together at Llanthony Priory in Gloucester.

There will be an opportunity to meet other members and Barnwood staff, and find out more about the work that has been happening over the last year as well as sharing your feedback and contribute to plans for 2023.

There are two dates being offered so that we can offer a sensory option for those who prefer a quieter environment.

- **Tuesday 24th January**
- **Wednesday 25th January**  
(Sensory option)



Invitations to book your place will be sent out in the new year.

As you have read above, the **meetups for 2022** are finished. The next events will be in March 2023 and they will take place across the county and online.

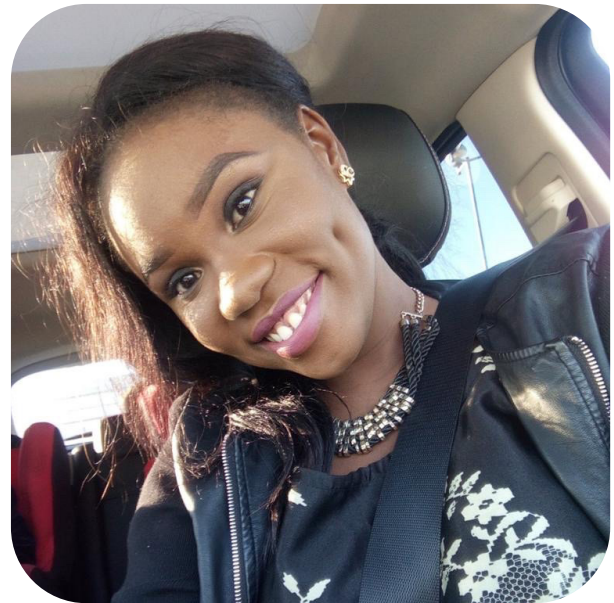
We will be in touch with everyone in the new year with details of the meetups in your area.

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# Welcome to Wey

**This month we welcome a new member to the Barnwood Engagement team.**

Wey Ofenor has joined us as our new Engagement Coordinator while Anna moves over to her Connector role in the new year. I'm sure you will get to see or speak to Wey soon.



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For now that just leaves us to thank each and every one of you who have been on this new journey with us. From the very start at the pilot phase, to those who have been on our Experts by Experience Panels, to those that have travelled to a meetup or connected with us on Zoom, we say **thank you** and wish you a **happy new year!**

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## Feedback welcome

**We want to learn as much as we can about what works, and what doesn't.** If we can make this newsletter better, please let us know.

If you want to get in touch with the Engagement team about anything at all, you can email [talktous@barnwoodtrust.org](mailto:talktous@barnwoodtrust.org), and call or WhatsApp **07519 325601**.