

Members' Newsletter

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March 2022

Hello

Welcome to our membership newsletter. We wanted to give you all an update on what's been happening with the membership scheme and what will be happening this Spring.



Pilot comes to an end

A big thank you to our pilot members for helping us to test and improve the membership scheme before launch. The pilot stage is now over and we're almost ready to go.

27 people joined the pilot membership scheme back in the autumn 2021. Up to Christmas we held 5 meetups, experimenting with different topics and locations (like The Music Works and Cirencester Baptist Church), plus Zoom alternatives. We tried out a welcome pack about the scheme, and we sent 2 newsletters: 1 digital and printed, and 1 as a video.

“I think it’s great that people are actively trying to engage with people with lived experience and involve them in deciding.”

(Dave, pilot member)

“I just wanted to be a part of something bigger within the community that will help us to see tangible change.”

(Annie, pilot member)

After Christmas, many pilot members took part in reviewing how it went, to help us shape the scheme for a ‘soft launch’ this spring. This included working with a creative agency to develop ideas for the name and brand visuals. More on this below.

Thank you to every pilot member for being a part of this from the very start. We have enjoyed our sessions together and your contributions have been vital – improving the scheme and supporting it to get off the ground. We could not have done this without you.

This means that the new free membership scheme at Barnwood Trust is almost ready to go – building a network of people in Gloucestershire who want to make a difference for disabled people and people with mental health challenges.

See later in the newsletter for details on how you can be one of the first people to sign up.



Unveiling new branding

We can now reveal that the membership scheme will be called Barnwood Circle

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the process of developing the identity of the scheme, alongside Bitter Lemon. We hope we have come up with something that reflects what the scheme is, and where we want it to go.

Many of you were involved in the sessions we did with Bitter Lemon, through either coming along to the virtual and in-person workshops, or by giving your input to Anna. We hope you agree that this was a fun, and ultimately productive process.

As those involved know, it was a very close call between the final two names, with Barnwood Circle narrowly winning over Barnwood Collective. Bitter Lemon have also designed a logo which everyone involved feels is a great way of representing all things we want the scheme to say.

Below are some of the things we heard at these workshops.

“Action is definitely what members should be about. It’s important we get loads of the community involved.” (Pilot member)

“This suggests a gathering of many people together and you can have lots of different groups within that. Interlocking circles is strong in the sense it suggests different people coming together rather than just one type of person.” (Pilot member)

“[We want] to show that we want to join forces with others to make changes possible rather than working alone.” (Pilot member)



Co-design of the Individual Grants

As you know, we've been working to update Barnwood's Individual Grants, and co-designing it with members. We've gained some valuable insight into how our grants should be used, who should get the grants and how we can improve our grants going forward.

Going forward, members will be invited to directly influence Barnwood Trust's work through co-designed projects. In the first of these projects, 10 pilot members and 3 others with different experiences of disability joined a team alongside Barnwood Trust employees to share experiences and develop ideas about the new Individual Grants strategy.

“It's good that there is to be more involvement of people with disabilities and you're paying attention to those with lived experience.” (Pilot member)

“I think the project has made great progress in a relatively short space of time.” (Pilot member)

“It’s been good to work collaboratively with Barnwood Staff and feel more on an equal level and if there are any more opportunities to work on projects in the same way then I would love to be involved.”
(Pilot member)



Become a member of the Barnwood Circle

There will be an email invitation sent out to everyone soon with more details on how to become a member of Barnwood Circle

What will happen?

- Let us know if you’re interested to join
- A member of the Engagement Team will get in touch for an introductory chat
- These conversations can be offered in a variety of formats, including face to face, via email or WhatsApp, or on video call, such as Teams or Zoom

Why?

- In this conversation we will ask how you would like to be involved, communication preferences and access requirements

If you're already a pilot member

- Please let Anna know if you would like to continue with your membership and become an official member.
- An introductory chat won't be required for Pilot Members, but if you have any questions about the new scheme or there are any changes you would like us to make re: communication preferences etc, please get in touch.

Newsletter needs a name

The Barnwood Members' Newsletter is still a working title, we would love for you to suggest what you would like it to be called. Please choose for your favourite in the following list and email us back at talktous@barnwoodtrust.org

- Circle News
 - Member News
 - Circular
 - Circle Update
 - Round Up
 - Other
-



Dates for your Diary

Our first meet ups will be taking place in April. Look out for the meetups happening near you....

Dates:

- Tues 12th April – Zoom -Meetup #1 - Cotswolds
- Thurs 14th April – In-Person – Meetup #1- Cotswolds
- Mon 25th April – Zoom –Meetup #1 - Stroud
- Tues 26th April – In-Person – Meetup #1 – Stroud

We will be holding 3 x meetups within each area annually. You will be invited to come along to the meetups in your local area, which will be held at different accessible locations and online.

There will be meetups in the following six areas across Gloucestershire:

- Gloucester
 - Cheltenham & Tewkesbury
 - Cotswolds
 - Stroud
 - Forest of Dean
-



Video Review

We've made two new videos. Before we release them, we would like some feedback on them. We would be especially keen to hear from anyone who hasn't yet used the Recite Me tool bar, or visited Overton House. To watch the videos, please use the links below.

The Overton House Virtual tour

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irPogAwi4ko&ab>)

The Recite Me tutorial video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydJqbedMka0>)

Feedback, Feedback, Feedback

We want to learn as much as we can about what works, and what doesn't. We can take on this learning when planning future events. We were also asked to use clear language, avoiding technical terms. We can only learn when we hear feedback like this. 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, and call or WhatsApp **07519 325601**.