

# Barnwood Circle Round Up

September 2023



## Hello

Welcome to the September edition of the Barnwood Circle 'Round Up'.

In this edition, you can find out more about our recent meetup in the Cotswolds. We have news to share about our new Short Breaks funding, accessibility improvements at Overton House and an invitation to this year's Together with Barnwood event. You will also meet our new team member Graham.

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## Recent meetups

This month saw the start of the latest round of meetups across the county. On Wednesday 6th September we were at Moreton W.I. Hall where we were joined by many Cotswolds Barnwood Circle members, along with some new faces.

It was lovely to see so many people there despite it being an extremely warm day. Fortunately, the Hall kept everyone cool and didn't disrupt the rich conversations around the topic of 'welcoming and inclusive activities.' We all had an enjoyable afternoon getting to hear such a wealth of experiences from people living in the Cotswolds.



# Communications projects

**We are nearing the end of our two communication co-design projects and look forward to sharing the results of them soon.**

Group 1 has included 7 Barnwood Circle members and has worked on producing a new brochure to help us advertise the work of Barnwood in a clear and accessible way.



Bitter Lemon, the design agency who were responsible for producing the Barnwood Circle logo have been involved in many of the session. Their task has been to take all of the ideas discussed by the group and turn it into a brochure that will be important in our work.

Group 2 has included 12 Barnwood Circle members and has looked at developing a set of communication guidelines for Barnwood's full staff team to use. This includes how we speak about disability and mental health, inclusive language and accessible communications. We have a couple of sessions left for this group and we look forward to having a really useful set of guidelines at the end of the project.



# Overton House accessibility update

**We continue to make Overton House more accessible. Recently we have made improvements to the main kitchen area including making it more wheelchair friendly and introducing 'talking appliances'.**

In the main kitchen area we have removed some unused white goods and replaced the large water cooler with a tabletop, mains-fed water system. Decluttering this space has allowed us to create a wheelchair friendly preparation area as well as improving the overall turning space.



There is also a new landing pad in the top drawer next to the oven so that anyone using the oven has a safe spot to place hot items. We also introduced some new 'talking appliances'. These pieces of equipment announce functions as you select them and use tactile buttons rather than dials.



We hope you find this area easier to use and navigate around next time you are at Overton House.





# Annual Report

**Earlier this month we published our Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2022.**

In the introduction, Ann Santry, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Sally Byng, Chief Executive, both talk about what a significant year 2022 was in terms of a new strategic direction for the Trust.

If you want to receive a copy, please contact us.



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## Short Breaks funding

**We are happy to share with you that we have awarded one-year funding to 6 local organisations through our latest themed funding programme, Short Breaks. The panel that awarded this funding included Experts by Lived Experience from Barnwood Circle.**



The successful applicants are ADHD Hub Gloucestershire, Parent and Carer Alliance CIC, Belmont School, The Music Works, Can't Sit Still and Creative Sustainability.

If you would like to learn about the projects being funded, please visit our website or contact us.

# Together with Barnwood 2023

You are invited to join Barnwood Trustees, staff and other Barnwood Circle members for our annual sharing event. This is a chance to hear about our work from the past year and explore some big questions we face in our work in the year ahead.



Thursday 21st November  
11am – 2pm  
Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down  
Hatherley Lane, Gloucester GL2  
9QA

Details of how to book will be sent out via email, please note places have to be booked and will be on a first come first served basis.

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## Future meetups

The final meetups of the year are coming soon. In this round we'll be focusing on what makes an activity welcoming and accessible. We've already had our meetup in Moreton-in-Marsh.

You can join the conversations in the following areas:

### Tewkesbury

Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk,  
Tewkesbury GL20 8QG  
Monday 25th September 1.30pm -  
4.00pm

Online (Microsoft Teams)  
Wednesday 27th September 10.30am -  
12.00pm





## Gloucester

St. John's Northgate Methodist Church,  
Gloucester, GL1 2AN  
Thursday 5th October, 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Online (Microsoft Teams)  
Friday 6th October, 11.00am - 12.30pm



## Cheltenham

Barnwood Trust, Overton House,  
Overton Rd, Cheltenham GL50 3BN  
Day 1- Monday 16th October 1.30pm -  
4.00pm  
Day 2- Thursday 19th October 1.30pm -  
4.00pm

Online (Microsoft Teams)  
Wednesday 18th October 10.30am -  
12.00pm



## Stroud

Online (Microsoft Teams)  
Thursday 26th October, 11.00am -  
12.30pm

GL11 Community Hub, Fairmead, Cam,  
Glos. GL11 5JS.  
Friday 27th October, 10.30am - 1.00pm



## Forest of Dean

The Main Place, Old Station Way,  
Coleford GL16 8RH  
Wednesday 5th November 1.30pm -  
4.00pm

Online (Microsoft Teams)  
Thursday 6th November 11.00am -  
12.30pm



Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we will send you an invite. If you have any questions, or would like any assistance getting to your local or online meetup, please contact Wey using the contact details below.

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## Meet Graham

**We are pleased to introduce Graham Reeves, the newest member of the Engagement team.**

Graham is our new Involvement and Participation Manager. He will be working closely with Katie, Anna, Charlotte, Lidia and Wey to continue to develop Barnwood Circle, work with members and oversee all future co-design projects.



Before coming to Barnwood, Graham worked for Lincolnshire County Council, where he spent 15 years doing participation work within Children's Services. This involved improving services based on what children, young people and families were saying and helping teams to gather and use feedback.

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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**.