

# Barnwood Circle Round Up

June 2024



## Hello

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

In this edition of the newsletter you will find an update about our latest co-design projects, a summary of the members' survey, and news about members of the Engagement team. You can also find dates for our Annual Member Event and Together with Barnwood 2024. As well as a chance to spot Barnwood Circle members on The One Show.

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## Co-design projects update

**Our 2024 Projects are underway. It's been great to have a wealth of experience and valuable input from Barnwood Circle members.**

Here is an update of what's been happening:

### **Annual Members Event**

7 Barnwood Circle members are co-designing this year's event.

The project team is focusing on ways in which Barnwood can share and gather feedback on the Change Theme work, as well as ways members can reflect on and celebrate their achievements from the past year.



## **Empowered Employers**

The project team have recently completed the 2024 phase of the campaign. Barnwood Circle members have given feedback to employers (including Barnwood Trust) on their action plans to make their recruitment processes and workplaces more accessible.

Employers have received the feedback, and members were pleased by the openness and dedication shown by employers to bring about positive change.

# **Empowered Employers.**

## **Anti-Racism**

8 Barnwood Circle members have been recruited to help us be more inclusive of people with different ethnicities, faiths and cultures. This project starts in June.

## **Accessibility Fund**

A project in partnership with Barnwood's Funding Team. This starts later in June and will involve developing criteria for funding applications to make spaces more accessible. This project will continue the work started by our meetups in 2023.



Coming soon for our projects is preparing for the Annual Public Meeting. Look out for any new project briefs and specifications later in the year on the Members Area.

# Members survey results



**At the end of 2023, we surveyed members to learn about your experiences of Barnwood Circle – what's going well and what improvements we might need to make.**

When we ran the survey there were 122 members. We had responses from 46 members. Based on what members told us, we will:

- Find ways to keep members informed about what has been achieved beyond their involvement in a project. This could include articles in Round Up or more contact with staff involved in projects.
- Continue to ask for feedback on the way we communicate with members.
- Consider involving members in a review of Barnwood Circle communications in the future.
- Update people's communications preferences each year because needs can change.
- Try using WhatsApp alerts and reminders.
- Try approaching individuals about specific projects when we know they have relevant knowledge, skills or experience to offer. This will need to be balanced with keeping the selection process fair for all.

We will be doing our next Barnwood Circle survey towards the end of the year.

# Staff changes

**We have had some big changes in the Engagement team at Barnwood Trust, with 2 staff members leaving and 2 new staff members joining us too.**

We are pleased to introduce Izzy Hawkins as our new Engagement Co-ordinator and Chris Bellamy as a new Connector. Izzy will be taking over from Wey, who is now a Connector along with Anna and Lidia. Chris will be covering Wey's new role as Connector, as she goes on maternity leave this month.



We are excited to welcome Wey's new baby and we look forward to her return next year.

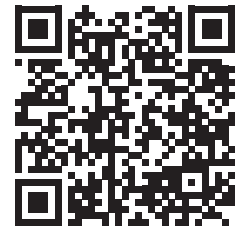
Chris has previously worked in counselling and mental health support and Izzy has worked in mental health too. We're delighted to have them on the team. You can find out more about them on the Our Team page on our website.

In addition, after 4 years at Barnwood, we have sadly said goodbye to Hannah as our Marketing and Communications Manager. Hannah has moved to an exciting new role in Events and Marketing for Charity Comms. After nearly 3 years as our Digital Content Maker, Callum will be leaving too. He will soon join the National Autistic Society as their Multimedia Content Creator. We wish them both the best of luck.





Finally, we would like to welcome Colin Smith as our new chair of Trustees. Colin Smith became a Trustee of Barnwood Trust in 2019 and currently chairs the Trust's Funding Committee. He will take on the role of Chair of Trustees for a 3-year period. You can read more about his appointment by scanning the QR code on the right.



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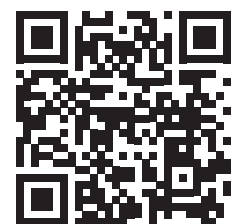
## The One Show



**How many Barnwood Circle members can you spot? We were thrilled to see several Barnwood Circle members make a star appearance on the BBC 1, TV programme 'The One Show' on Monday 8th April.**

They were involved in a project with Gloucestershire Rural County Council about Digital Access and The One Show came to the Cotswolds to interview some of them. Well done to everyone who appeared.

You can watch the video by scanning the QR code on the right:



# Annual members event



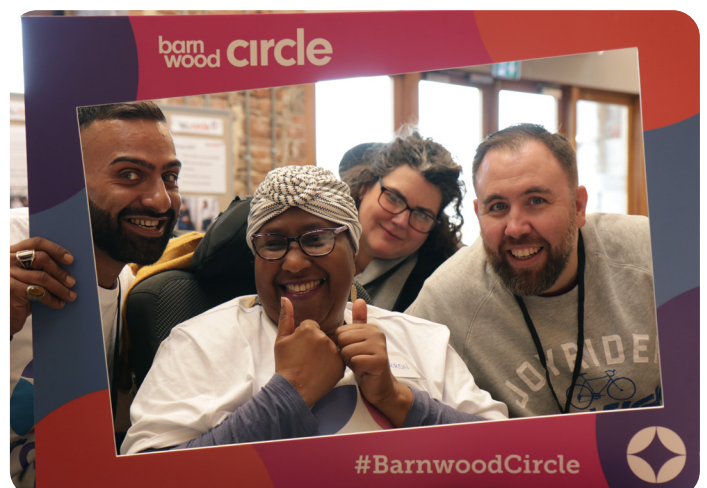
**This year the Annual Member Event will be held at The Pavilion in Cheltenham on Thursday 27th June from 1.30pm – 4.30pm.**

There will be the opportunity to hear and feedback on the current change themes Barnwood has been working on, including pieces of work that Barnwood Circle members have a hand in shaping.

There will also be a chance to celebrate your achievements and look back on your experiences of being a member over the last year, along with other Circle members and staff from Barnwood.

We look forward to seeing everyone. If you want to join us and you haven't let us know yet, contact Izzy on [talktous@barnwoodtrust.org](mailto:talktous@barnwoodtrust.org) or WhatsApp **07519 325601**

This will be the first Annual Member Event since we introduced changes to membership. We now have 77 members – we look forward to connecting with you and working together over the coming months.



# Annual Public Event

**You are invited to join Barnwood Trustees, staff, members of the general public and Barnwood Circle members for our annual Together with Barnwood event.**

This is a chance to hear about Barnwood's work from the past year and explore some big questions coming up in our work for the year ahead.

There will be a chance to mix with other people in Gloucestershire who care about change happening on disability and mental health issues, and to add your thoughts and ideas.



Save the date: **Wednesday 30th October 2024**

**Hatherley Manor Hotel,  
Down Hatherley Lane,  
Gloucester  
GL2 9QA**

Details of how to book your place will be sent out closer to the event.

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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**.