

Barnwood Circle Round Up

March 2025



Hello

Welcome to the first Round Up newsletter of 2025.

In this edition, you'll find updates on projects, details about this year's Annual Members Event, what we learned from our member survey, and a few important reminders.

Projects Update

Short Breaks

A big thank you to the Barnwood Circle members who helped with this. You reviewed and scored 13 applications from organisations that applied for Short Breaks funding. After agreeing on final scores as a panel, the recommendations were sent to the Funding Committee. We'll be announcing soon which organisations have been chosen.

Anti-Racist Engagement

We're now in the second phase of this project. This part focuses on how we can act as allies and communicate our anti-racist values both inside and outside Barnwood Circle. The original project group has come back together to continue this work.

Access to Money Advice Research

This project will test different ways of doing research to see how inclusive and accessible they are, and how they might be applied to research on money advice. We will also explore how Circle members might be involved in future research.

Projects update continued

CEO Recruitment

Four Barnwood Circle members took part in the recruitment process for our new CEO. As part of a panel, they explored each candidate's understanding of Barnwood Circle and how they plan to listen to and learn from disabled people and people with mental health conditions. It was a long day with five candidates, but the panel did a fantastic job. There will be a second interview for two candidates at the end of March. We hope to announce who our new CEO is by the end of April.

Social Media Review

We have just started a review of the Trust's social media, consisting of two in-person focus groups. These sessions will help us learn what makes content engaging and accessible, which will inform the Trust's social media strategy. Later in the year, the EbLE group that took part in the focus groups, will come back together to review how things have improved.

Annual Member Event

Save the Date

Annual Members Event - 23rd July 2025

We're excited to share that the Annual Members Event will take place on 23rd July. Recruitment to the project group has started, so get in touch if you want to know more. We'll be sending out invitations towards the end of May.



Member Survey: What we learned

Thank you to everyone who filled out our 2024 annual member survey. The results were positive—you rated your experience and our communication higher than in 2023, and members who joined projects found them more valuable than last year.

The survey also showed two challenges:

1. Using the member area - Fewer people than expected are using the member area on our website. We'll work on making it more visible and useful.
2. Project involvement - Some members didn't know about project opportunities, even though our communication was rated highly. We'll review how we share this information to make sure everyone sees it. Others said they didn't join projects because meetings were hard to attend. Not all projects require in-person attendance at Overton House, and we'll make that clearer when recruiting for projects.



Emergency Contact Details

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their emergency contact form. If you haven't yet, we'll be in touch soon - it's really important that we have this information.

Thank you

We're so grateful for your involvement in Barnwood Circle. As always, we welcome your feedback - if there's anything you'd like to share, please email us at talktous@barnwoodtrust.org.

