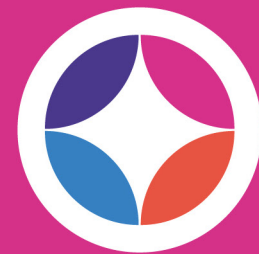


# Barnwood Circle Round Up



June 2025

## Hello

Welcome to the June edition of the Round Up newsletter.

In this edition, you'll find updates on projects, details about this year's Annual Members Event, and updates to the Barnwood team.

## Projects Update

### Research on Money Advice

Some Circle members have been working with our Research Team to test research methods on accessing advice on benefits, budgeting and debt. Involving circle members in research activities is new for us, and we're exploring ways for members to be more involved in future projects.

### Social Media Workshops

Circle members joined in two sessions to share ideas about what makes engaging social media content. Your ideas are helping shape a brand-new social media strategy for later this year.



## Helping Recruit Our New CEO

Circle members were involved in the interviews for our new CEO.

They joined staff and trustees in panel discussions and gave feedback that helped inform who moved forward in the process.

## Accessibility Fund Scoring

Last year, some Circle members helped design the criteria for a new Accessibility Fund. The Fund is now up and running. A group of members have had training on how to score applications. They'll meet as a panel in July to recommend projects to the funding committee.

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## Annual Member Event

You should have received your invitation to this year's event by now. This event is a great chance to meet other members - old and new, hear about project progress, and say hello to some Barnwood Staff. Six Circle members are helping us design this year's event.

It will be held on the 23rd of July at Dowty Sports and Social (GL2 9QH). We look forward to seeing you all there.



## Membership Reminders

A reminder that most memberships will end in May 2026, but there are still projects coming up for you to get involved in. If you are not sure when your membership ends, please reach out to Izzy who can find out for you.

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## Farewell to Sally

We are hosting a small farewell for Sally at Overton House on the 4th of July, and we would love Barnwood Circle members to come along. Feel free to drop in anytime between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. There will also be a chance to meet the new CEO, Matt Little, who starts mid-August. It's a nice way to wish Sally well and say hello to Matt.

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## Welcome to Matt – Our New CEO

We're pleased to let you know that Matt Little will be joining Barnwood Trust as our new Chief Executive Officer in August.

Matt has worked for many years helping communities grow stronger, supporting young people and working for positive social change. He has set up several community organisations and led projects in creativity, education, and inclusion.



Matt says he's really looking forward to working with the team and making a difference in Gloucestershire.

Read more about Matt and his new role ([Matt Little to join Trust as new CEO - Barnwood Trust News](#)).

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## Team Celebrations

We are delighted to share that Wey will be coming back in early August in her new role as a Connector. Wey has been on maternity leave after having her wonderful baby boy, Chaniel. And more good news - Chris has been offered a permanent contract, so he will be sticking around a lot longer!

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# Conversation Café

We know lots of people have missed having meet ups this year, so we are trying something new called Conversation Café. We will be running 4 Conversation Cafes around Gloucestershire where you can come and chat with other members over a cuppa. Please keep an eye out for more details on this soon.



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## Disability Benefits Consultation

Earlier this year, the Government proposed changes that could make it harder for disabled people and people with mental health conditions to access benefits like Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

To help make sure as many disabled people as possible could share their thoughts with the Government, Barnwood Trust and Inclusion Gloucestershire worked with disabled people to create a simpler survey and supported local focus groups. Over 80 people shared their views.

The survey is now closed, and our teams are going through the responses.

We'll be sharing what we heard with Gloucestershire's 7 MPs and will submit the findings to the Government later this month.

If you'd like to know more, email: [socialchange@barnwoodtrust.org](mailto:socialchange@barnwoodtrust.org)

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## 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](mailto:talktous@barnwoodtrust.org).