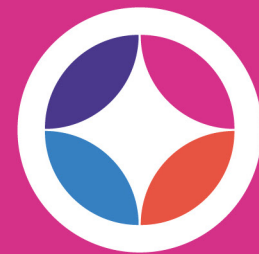


Barnwood Circle Round Up



September 2025

Hello

Welcome to the September edition of the Round Up newsletter. In this edition, you'll find updates on membership, various events and updates to the Barnwood team.

Welcome Matt Little

Our new CEO Matt has now started with us and has already been getting stuck in. He attended the social change conference on his 3rd day where some Circle members had the chance to meet him.

Matt is keen to learn more about Barnwood Circle and meet more members.



Matt says, "I joined Barnwood as the new Chief Executive 1 month ago. It is a privilege to be working here, and I will do all I can to help this organisation make as much difference as we can across the county and beyond. As part of my induction, I have been meeting with lots of people - staff, trustees and partners. They have all been brilliant, and I am excited about the vital work we will go on to do together, but the best and most interesting meetings and sessions so far have involved Barnwood Circle members. That is where I have learned most and heard things most clearly: Barnwood Circle matters very much."

National Inclusion Week

It's National Inclusion Week and we asked Jess Waterman from Barnwood Trust and Annie Pears from Barnwood Circle to share what inclusion means to them. [Watch the video on YouTube.](#)



Together with Barnwood 2025 – Bookings open Thursday 25th September

'Together with Barnwood' is our annual event where we share the work happening across the Trust. Hear directly from Barnwood staff, partners and Circle members about the projects we're leading, the ideas we're shaping, and the change we're building together.

Keep an eye on your inbox - tickets for this year's annual event will be available to Circle Members from Thursday 25th September. Places are limited and will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Membership Reminders

Barnwood Circle has been going since our founder-members helped us set things up at the end of 2021. That's nearly 4 years of brilliant contributions to Barnwood's work.

It's now also nearly two years since we announced the changes to membership – mainly that membership is for three years. This means that some memberships will end in May 2026.

We made this change so that a wider range of disabled people, people with mental health conditions and unpaid carers can become involved in the work of the Trust over time – in a meaningful and sustainable way, to help us make an impact across the county.

If your membership ends in May 2026, we want you to know that your involvement has played an important role in shaping our work and the way we work. Barnwood Circle would not be where it is without you. Thank you.

Between now and May 2026 we will be holding a series of events to support you to move on to new opportunities.

In **November**, we will hold drop-ins to support members in writing statements about their achievements, personal development during membership and goals for the future. We want to support you to think about how you might use your learning, experience and skills in other ways. Your personalised statement can be used when applying for other opportunities.

In **February**, we will offer training and share some volunteering opportunities. We want to support members to apply their learning, experience and skills to opportunities beyond the Trust.

In **April**, we will hold an 'open house' celebration drop-in at Overton House. This will be a chance to say a proper thank you and for members to make lasting connections if you choose to.

Please look out for more details of these activities.

Annual Member Event 2025

A huge thank you to this year's AME project group of Anieka, Nick, Iain, John, Ann and Adrian, who did a fantastic job of designing and delivering an enjoyable and accessible event for us all. Those who came had fun, met new people and learnt something new. It was great to hear members sharing their experiences of being involved in projects. There was plenty of opportunity for socialising during the 'conversation café' and during lunch, and a challenging quiz written by the project group. We also had Kay and Julie taking over the Trust's social media for the event.

We had some great feedback with 19 out of 23 people giving it top scores!



Conversation Cafe

Our first conversation café was a huge success with all 15 spots being filled with old and new members alike. The conversation cafés are running in place of meet ups so come along to meet some new members and make connections over a cuppa and a chat. Speak to one the connectors to book a place at the next event.



Dates for the next 2 sessions are:

The Main Place Coleford - Thursday 9th October 1.30pm – 3pm

St John's Hall Gloucester - Thursday 6th November 2pm – 3.30pm

Wey returns

You may have already seen her around but we are very happy to have Wey back after her maternity leave. Wey is returning as a Connector and will be working with members on the Access to Nature project.

Wey says,

"I am grateful for the time I had on maternity leave. For me it's a mixed feeling of excitement and nerves being back to work. However, I am looking forward to reconnecting, contributing and finding my rhythm again. Thank you for the fantastic work you have been doing with the team while I was away. I applaud your hard work and am excited to work with you again."



Project updates

We currently have two projects running.

Seven members are creating digital content to amplify the voices of disabled people and people with mental health conditions in the Trust's Access to Nature work. This includes audio of a guided walk, videos, photography, artwork and poetry. The content will form part of a communications campaign for people responsible for managing nature spaces.

During September and October, six members will be working alongside three staff to score funding applications. As a panel they will make recommendations to the Trust's Funding Committee on allocating £1.3m.

YouTube

You may not know we have a YouTube channel! Here you can watch some great videos explaining our change theme programmes as well as seeing the social media takeover done by two of our circle members at the Annual Member Event. Find the [YouTube channel here](#) or simply search Barnwood Trust on YouTube.

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.