Barnwood Circle Round Up

June 2026

Hello

Welcome to the September edition of the Round Up newsletter.

In this edition, you'll find updates on upcoming events, member projects and changes to the Barnwood Trust team.

Welcome to Helena

We're delighted to welcome Helena as our new Membership Co-ordinator. Many of you may already have met her at the Annual Member Event or during project work at Overton House.



Helena brings experience in marketing, communications and events. She also has previous links with Barnwood, having worked as Access and Community Officer at Tewkesbury Nature Reserve, where she helped deliver a Barnwood-funded accessibility and inclusion project.

New members

We continue to welcome new members to Barnwood Circle with around 10 new members every 6 months. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member, please let us know and one of our Connectors will be happy to have a conversation with them.

Together with Barnwood

You're invited to Together with Barnwood, our annual public meeting.



The event is an opportunity to hear from Barnwood staff, funded partners and Barnwood Circle members about the work we're leading and supporting to create positive change across Gloucestershire for disabled people and people experiencing mental health conditions. You will also have time to connect with others and enjoy lunch together.

Date: Wednesday 18th November 2026

Location: Patch Gloucester, The Forum, 5-7 Cathedral Walk, Gloucester, GL1 1DF

You can book onto one of two main sessions:
Session 1: 10.30am–2pm Session 2: 12.50pm–4pm

A quieter, low sensory period will be available before Session 1 from 9.30 – 10.15am, for anyone who would like extra time to settle into the space. You don't need to book this separately, but you will need to book onto Session 1 if you'd like to attend.

When booking please ensure to book a Barnwood Circle Ticket. Spaces are limited and must be booked in advance.

Book your place by phoning Helena on: 07541 692 216

Member development

At the Annual Member Event, many of you shared ideas about skill sharing, learning opportunities and how Barnwood can support members to grow during their time with us. We're reviewing your feedback and will be developing ideas over the coming months.

Projects

Gloucester FM Radio

We've been working with Gloucester FM (GFM) radio to involve Barnwood Circle members in their health and wellbeing show. The first shows have already been recorded at Overton House, with members sharing their experiences and perspectives.

We'll share more information about the shows, including how you can listen, once the broadcast dates are confirmed.

GFM 96.6 is Gloucestershire's longest running community radio station and aims to empower, educate and entertain through music, news, information and advice. The station provides a platform for voices and stories that are often underrepresented in mainstream media. By involving members in the show, we hope to increase understanding of disability and mental health while strengthening connections between Barnwood Trust and local communities.



Funding Panels

In October, a group of Barnwood Circle members will take part in training and panel sessions for Barnwood's Funded Partner Programme. They will help decide how 1.5 million pounds of funding is given out to organisations across Gloucestershire.

We'll also be recruiting members to take part in the final round of the Accessibility Fund, which awards funding to make indoor and outdoor spaces more accessible. More information will be shared soon.

Access to Nature

At the end of 2025, 7 members co-produced a series of short films showing what nature means to them and why accessing nature spaces is so important. The films are part of Barnwood's new Access to Nature Hub – a practical online resource featuring tools, guidance and real-life examples to help organisations make nature more accessible across Gloucestershire.

The films have also been shared on social media as adverts for the Access to Nature Hub and received an incredible response with the videos reaching 50,403 people on Facebook and Instagram and 67,911 people on LinkedIn with 21,635 likes, comments and shares altogether.

Inclusive Active Travel

We've recently started a project with Gloucestershire County Council to help shape future walking, wheeling and cycling routes. Barnwood Circle members will use their lived experience to co-design a set of accessibility principles to help inform the planning and design of future routes.

The project will also help us explore and share learning about what meaningful involvement of disabled people and people with mental health conditions can look like in practice.



Strategy Task Group

The Strategy Task Group has now completed its fourth session, bringing Barnwood Circle members together with people from all areas of the Trust to be involved in conversations that will shape Barnwood's strategy and how the Trust works in the future. There is no shortage of passion and ideas for how Barnwood can make change in Gloucestershire for disabled people and people with mental health conditions.

Most recently, the group explored how Barnwood uses language and images to communicate who we are, what we do and the change we want to create. Members reviewed examples from other organisations and shared ideas about how we can improve.

In October, members involved in the project will join Barnwood's Board of Trustees at their annual away day. We look forward to sharing more updates in the next edition of Round Up.

Conversation Cafes

Earlier this year, we launched a series of monthly in person and online Conversation Cafés, created in response to member feedback asking for more opportunities to connect and share experiences.

Topics this year have led to some thoughtful and insightful conversations, including:

- Hidden Disabilities – raising awareness and sharing ways to support people with less visible disabilities.
- Navigating NHS Appointments – exploring how we can better support ourselves and others through healthcare experiences.
- Climate Change: A Disability Issue – a timely discussion introduced over the summer. Due to extreme heat at the time, we moved the session online, which felt fitting given the topic.

The Conversation Cafés have been well received, and we plan to continue and develop the programme based on member feedback.

If you'd like to join a future Conversation Café, please get in touch with us.

The next in-person session is:

Venue: Overton House, Cheltenham.

Date: Tuesday 20th October2026

Time: 2pm – 4.30pm

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.