

Barnwood Circle Round Up

September 2024



Hello

Welcome to the September 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 Annual Member Event, and news about members of the Engagement team. You can also find dates for our Annual Public Meeting -Together with Barnwood 2024. As well as a reminder on membership details.

Co-design projects update

Our 2024 main co-design projects are coming to an end. 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:



Accessibility Fund

Since June a group of Barnwood Circle members has been helping us to shape our new funding programme, the Accessibility Fund, intended to help make indoor and outdoor spaces more accessible and welcoming. They've drawn on their own life experiences to help ensure that the programme will meet community needs.

Co-design projects update continued

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.

Empowered Employers.

Annual Member Event

Co-designed by 7 Barnwood Circle members, the event was a great success. The project team focussed how best to share and gather feedback on Barnwood's main projects, or 'Change Themes' which are Access to Nature, Empowered Employers, Digital Inclusion and short breaks. The feedback received at the event has since been used to help the Trust think through what to do next in each Change Theme. Final decisions will be made soon. The co-design group also developed ways for members to reflect on and celebrate their achievements from the past year. There was lots of great feedback, including:



"I have enjoyed listening to the other views and opinions, sharing my wide ranging experiences of lots of topics, and having a purpose in life."

"I have enjoyed the safe and relaxed environment, freedom of expression, not being treated as different, not being judged, and an opportunity to educate people and also benefit from their experiences."

Together with Barnwood

For this project 6 Barnwood Circle members are looking at how we make our Annual public Meeting fully inclusive. The group shall also be looking at how to gather some information for future work and feedback on the event.

Co-design projects update continued

Anti-Racist Engagement

The Involvement and Participation Team have just completed a piece of work with 8 Barnwood Circle members to help develop anti-racist engagement principles. This will help us ensure that Barnwood Circle is a place where disabled people of colour and people of colour with mental health conditions feel safe and welcome and are able to be themselves. The importance of this work was reinforced by the national social unrest which occurred during the project.

We are now developing our plans for co-design projects in 2025. It will be a busy year with a variety of projects. We will have more details in the next edition of Round Up.

New faces and a new team name

We are pleased to introduce Becky Fieldhouse as our new marketing and communications manager. Becky had a similar role at the University of Gloucestershire Student Union. She is settling in and enjoying life at Barnwood.



We've recently had a bit of a shift around at Barnwood with Laura Bolton, Research and Policy Manager, and Kate Kent, Lead Researcher, joining us to create a new team called Engagement and Insights. Laura says,

"We're very excited to be joining our colleagues in this new team and to be working more closely together. We'll be doing more and more research over the next couple of years, and are really keen to work with Barnwood Circle members to make our research as good as it can be. We're very much looking forward to meeting some of you soon!"



Photography Permissions

With so much exciting work going on we have decided to hire a crew to come in take lots of new photos and videos. We just wanted to remind everyone that if you don't want your photo being used please let us know and that if you are visiting in the next few weeks don't be surprised if you see camera crew around.

If you think your photo has been used without your permission do let us know and we shall correct this immediately.



Autumn Meet-ups

Meetups play an important part in informing our work.

Our plan for 2025 is that Meetups will have stronger links to our Change Themes (see above). This is because we want members to have greater input into these areas of work.

It is important to us that Meetups are meaningful for everyone involved and we don't ask people to share experiences for the sake of it.

We will not be holding Meetups this autumn because :

- Members shared their views on our existing Change Themes at the Annual Member Event
- The process of deciding what will happen next to each Change Theme has not finished yet
- We need to do some more detailed research on issues people shared at previous Meetups before deciding what new work to begin

We will let you know when the next Meetups will be as soon as we can.

Annual Public Meeting Event

This event gathers together Barnwood Trustees, staff, Professionals, members of the general public and Barnwood Circle members for our annual event.

This event is now full to be added to a waiting list please email talktous@barnwoodtrust.org



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, you can email talktous@barnwoodtrust.org and call or WhatsApp **07519 325601**.

Membership Reminders

A reminder on membership details. You will remember we made some changes to Barnwood Circle memberships earlier in the year. We ran drop ins and spoke to as many as we could about these changes. The new policy will hopefully allow us to reach even more voices and keep hearing new opinions.

All current memberships will end on the 1st May 2026.

In that time you can take part in 3 projects with 2 of those being in one year.

If you have any queries on this please reach out to one of the team.