



The Ammerdown Centre
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Registered Charity No.
1010244

100 Club Wanted - New Contributors

Numbers have become available for new contributors to the Ammerdown 100 Club. Here is how it works - 100 people commit to giving a donation or £1 a month to Ammerdown via a standing order; a monthly draw then takes place with a £50 prize to the winning number and £50 to Ammerdown. This means that Ammerdown's work can be supported by at least £600 a year.

Recent winners are:-

Sue Harbett (April)
Daphne Radenhurst (May)
Margaret Guard (June)
Joyce Shannon (July)
Pauline Roberts (August)
Angela Singleton (September)

THANK YOU!

In our last newsletter we explained that our bedroom curtains needed upgrading to create a more relaxing ambience for our guests during their stay. You kindly donated £800, which has enabled us to begin this important improvement. THANK YOU to all who contributed.

Leaving a bequest to Ammerdown

Legacies are a wonderful way of helping a cause close to one's heart. For more information about legacy giving, please contact us.

Can you help?

In response to feedback from our guests, we are aware that we desperately need a new carpet for the Trevett Conference Room, so any large or small donation you could make towards the cost will be gratefully received.

You can send a cheque, give us a call or make a gift via our website:

<http://ammerdown.org/can-you-help>

Many thanks in advance!



The Ammerdown Centre Newsletter

A Place of Hospitality, Spirituality and Growth

Autumn 2017

Dear Friends

Greetings to you all. I enjoy the different seasons of the year and in some ways it picks up the rhythm of life and the changes we experience. Keats in his poem 'To Autumn' wrote, 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' and indeed Autumn is upon us. Ammerdown picks up these rhythms through some of the courses and events we hold. It also provides an oasis for individual or group reflection.

The new programme for 2018 is available thanks to Sarah's work and bookings have started to come in. Please encourage your friends to come on our courses and why not book yourself in at the same time?

The Trustees will shortly be advertising for a new Director. We will be looking for a person who embraces the ethos and vision of Ammerdown and who has particular skills such as H.R, business and financial acumen and, most importantly, a person who can put Ammerdown on the map.

We are also looking to refresh the Trustees and are seeking people who can give about twelve days per year to the Centre including board meetings. If you have or know people with skills such as financial expertise, H.R. experience, business acumen, and IT skills please send for details to Ammerdown@hotmail.com or stuart@micentre.com

We welcome Christine Clinch to Ammerdown who introduces herself and the interfaith project in the newsletter. We wish her well as she aims to deliver a number of priorities which the project demands.

We continue to improve the property and Lower Southgate is well on the way. This two bedroomed flat is being prepared so we can offer it as accommodation to the new Director, if required. We are then concentrating on the main building. I am very grateful to all of you who support us financially. Our latest appeal, as set out in the newsletter, is to replace the carpet in the Trevett room. I hope you feel you can support us in this and any donation small or large will be gratefully received.

I write this introduction shortly after the hurricanes in the Caribbean and the earthquake in Mexico and the refugee crisis on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh. It is hard to imagine the plight of so many people affected by these events and it is important to hold all who suffer within the peace and tranquillity of Ammerdown.

My grateful thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard in the last few months to make Ammerdown the place that it is.

With best wishes,

Stuart

Revd Dr Stuart Burgess
Chair of Ammerdown Trustees



The launch of the new Ammerdown Interfaith Project by Christine Clinch

From London's Westminster Bridge to Parson's Green, this year has seen a significant increase in terrorist attacks. In their aftermath, hate crimes typically double. We cannot remain silent. *'Racism is a denial of the gospel and to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division'* (Methodist Conference 2016). The founders of the Ammerdown Centre set out to bring people from different backgrounds and faiths together so that they could learn from each other: striving for peace, social justice and reconciliation. Working within this context, the Ammerdown Interfaith Project sets out to challenge racism and discrimination.



Listening to the stories of the victims of hate crime; working together with people of different faiths and none; identifying current and possible projects in the Bristol and Bath area which successfully address hate crime; looking further afield in the UK at projects which could be transferred to the south west; the interfaith project sets out to develop a best practice template of projects that successfully address hate crime and make a difference. The project also hopes to strike up good relations with local MPs and to become an instrument of change in government policy, offering practical, tried and tested ways of addressing racism and discrimination.

As the newly appointed Interfaith Project Coordinator, I would love to hear from people who are passionate about addressing racial and faith related discrimination, victims of discrimination, those who are already working in this area and people with thoughts and ideas. Ammerdown Friends who previously expressed interest, please do get in touch!

The Ammerdown Interfaith Project is supported by The Methodist Church, The Beeston Community Trust and The Ammerdown Centre.
Interfaith Project Coordinator: Christine Clinch. Email: interfaith@ammerdown.org or Tel: 01761 433709 and leave a message. I will get back to you!

2018 Programme

By now you will have received the 2018 Ammerdown course programme that looks forward to welcoming familiar leaders and those new to the Centre. Also featured are regular days for carers, and the TLC for older folk living in our local community, plus Guided Quiet Days for those who wish to take time out from their busy lives.

For the first time, we will be introducing an evening course during May and June looking at "Personal Skills for Peaceful Communities and Building Bridges in Divided Communities" that will be led by Simon Keyes (see our programme or

go to the website www.ammerdown.org for further details).

There are many more day events, as well as a variety of weekend and midweek courses and we hope that by getting the programme out earlier you will be given time to consider which events you would like to attend and to book early. If you would like further copies of the programme, please contact us.

Ammerdown a Wedding Venue

In September we hosted a beautiful wedding for 90 guests, with the bride and groom having a blessing ceremony in our very own chapel, followed by a three course wedding breakfast.

Face painting for the children took place in the afternoon and a late evening buffet was accompanied by music from a live band. The weekend was a total success with Ammerdown being praised as the perfect setting.

"Having played a major part in the wedding I can say, from my own personal view, that the day could not have been better. The weather was glorious, the guests happy and, most importantly, the couple looked stunning and completely in love--a truly perfect occasion," said Naomi Kerby, Housekeeping Manager.



Friends' farewell gift to Benedicte Scholefield

Many of Benedicte's friends have said they would like to contribute to a cheque for her to buy something to remind her of her time at Ammerdown, and to have the chance to say farewell to her and Mark in person and to hear about her work with the Iona community in Scotland.

If you would like to contribute please make cheques payable to "The Ammerdown Centre" and marked "Farewell to Benedicte" on the **back** (not the **front**). Ingrid Harle, Ammerdown's Finance Officer will list the donors, but not the amount individually given, and then make out a final cheque to Benedicte. Please send your contributions to The Ammerdown Centre, Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5SW by 19th October.

Benedicte's presentation lunch event will take place on 19th November at the Friends' Meeting House in Bath. It would be helpful to know, as soon as possible, who would like to come by phoning me on 01225 428272 or writing to my address below, including your e-mail or phone number. Hopefully we can arrange lifts for non drivers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret

Lady Heath, 4 Gerrard Buildings, BATH BA2 4DQ

I was for some years librarian and a frequent visitor to Ammerdown.