



The Ammerdown Centre  
Ammerdown Park  
Radstock BA3 5SW

**Phone: 01761 433709**

**Email:**

centre@ammerdown.org

**Website:**

www.ammerdown.org

Registered Charity No.  
1010244

## 100 Club

Recent Winners were :-

Kathleen White (July),  
Peggy Vickers (August),  
Pauline Roberts (September),  
Susan Howard (October),  
Wally Harbert (November),  
Jennifer Wilson (December),  
Jean Hooper (January),  
Joyce Shannon (February),  
Thomas Hill (March)

All received £50, and Ammerdown received the same amount to support its valuable work.

## THANK YOU!

In our last newsletter, we explained that our lounge needed updating to make it a more ambient place for our guests to relax in during their stay. You have kindly donated £890 which has enabled us to begin the process of updating this important part of Ammerdown. A huge Thank You to all who contributed.

## Leaving a bequest to Ammerdown

Legacies are a wonderful way of helping a cause close to your 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 new black out curtains for our bedrooms. Any generous donation you could make - small or large- would help make a difference in this way. As always every gift, however small, 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 Spring 2017

As the Chair of the Trustees, I am delighted to write the introduction to this newsletter.

Many of you will know that Benedicte left us before Christmas after nearly twelve years in the post as Director. Benedicte steered Ammerdown through a difficult financial period and worked hard to produce a range of Ammerdown courses. She also provided stability and offered a very warm welcome to our many guests. We wish her well for the future.

The Trustees have agreed to have a pause before employing a new director. This will provide space to reflect so that we may discover what is needed to drive Ammerdown into the future. We are very grateful to the present staff who have risen to the challenges which have arisen over the last four months.

The core business of Ammerdown is to further interfaith dialogue. Reconciliation, social justice and peace lie at the heart of this work.

I am delighted to say that the Methodist Church and the Beeston Community Trust in Nottingham will fund a part time Project Co-ordinator to engage in this work from September. This person will be based at Ammerdown. This work is very much needed after Brexit and the many uncertainties in our world.

It is envisaged the Project Co-ordinator will work with groups in Bristol and Bath, and with other groups further afield including the newly established Rose Castle Foundation whose director is Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Reconciliation.

I write this as we journey towards Easter. This is an opportunity not only to reflect upon our spiritual journey, but on the challenges of our present world. As we read the papers and watch the news we are conscious that the many needs of the world including starvation in the Horn of Africa, conflicts in Syria and Iraq and the migration and displacement of people, is part of our own wilderness experience. We are reminded that Christ is in the wilderness with us, and that somehow in the mystery of God there lies the Easter hope.

With best wishes for a happy Eastertide. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting of the Friends in May.

With best wishes,

Revd Dr Stuart Burgess



## Lionel Blue—A Reflection by Sr Margaret Shepherds - A Life Vice President of Ammerdown

Rabbi Lionel Blue was a much loved friend, former trustee and lecturer at Ammerdown. His compassion, humour and common sense touched the hearts of so many radio listeners in his unique 'Thoughts for the Day' programme, as well as in the cookery column he wrote for the popular Catholic paper, 'The Universe'. Lionel had understanding and respect for other faiths, and believed that God lived in traditions other than his own.



In his book "Bolts from the Blue" he wrote: 'Quaker meetings, Catholic monks and nuns and Hindu swamis have had their place in my religious education and I could not and would not disown them. They helped me to become a rabbi.' Having briefly flirted with Christianity in his chequered career, he was sympathetic to what made us sisters tick and I regarded him as an honorary Brother of Zion.'

His favourite hymn was 'One more step along the world I go' and in one of his favourite prayers for all humanity, Lionel spoke of the Lord of all creation allowing us the freedom to wonder at and be united in our differences to know the uniqueness that is God. Such a good friend of ours... may his memory be blessed, and he would probably like us to say in our Christian tradition, RIP...'

## Tribute to Kenneth Wilson



Many of you will have already heard of the death of the Revd Dr Kenneth Wilson, a former chair of the Ammerdown Trustees. Kenneth was a distinguished Methodist Minister, author, teacher and theologian and was a former principle of Westminster College in Oxford. We pay tribute to Kenneth's leadership and encouragement to us all at the Centre.

## Farewell to Morfa

Morfa Jones joined Ammerdown as a resident just over three years ago. She has made a major contribution to Ammerdown and has been a real asset to our team. Her talents included organising our Refreshing Days for Carers which make a real difference to many local Carers, and expanding the variety of gifts and crafts available from our shop. Amongst many other varied tasks Morfa also did a grand job organising the Ammerdown Friends. Sadly for us,

Morfa has now decided that it is time for her to become a 'lady of leisure'. In saying farewell, the Trustees and staff thanked Morfa for her contribution to Ammerdown, and presented her with a pretty potted palm. She will be missed, but we wish her the very best for the future as she moves north to her humble abode to enjoy her new life!



## 2018 Programme

We are pleased to say that the planning of the 2018 Ammerdown Course Programme is well under way. We will be welcoming back familiar faces such as Margaret Silf, Fr Daniel O'Leary, Karen Webb, John Bell, Josie Brown and Dr Chris Hower, as well as new leaders such as Simon Keyes (former Director of St Ethleburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace); Hilary Marlow (Rose Castle Foundation) and we are awaiting confirmation from Pádraig O'Tuama (Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland). We will also be having our regular 'Refreshing Day for Carers' and TLC days for those in our local community, and also Guided Quiet Days for those who wish to take time out from their busy lives.

We hope that by getting the programme out earlier we will give you more time to consider which events you wish to attend so that you can book early. There will be more day events, as well as a variety of weekend and mid-week courses.

## Aldrich Cottage

Our beautiful Aldrich cottage has just had a makeover. It now has a fully equipped modern kitchen, and a lovely lounge area.



When not in use by Ammerdown we are pleased to announce that it is now available to book as a private holiday let sleeping up to 8 guests. For bookings please contact Sykes Cottages on [www.sykescottages.co.uk](http://www.sykescottages.co.uk) or call 0124 4345700

## Coming Soon..... Cooked Breakfasts

Over the next few months a vegetarian cooked breakfast will become a feature for guests staying at the Ammerdown Centre. It will consist of scrambled eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms and baked beans and Stuart Lockley our Kitchen Manager is looking forward to providing this additional option to an already extensive breakfast menu.