



The Ammerdown Centre
A Place of Hospitality, Spirituality and Growth

WINTER NEWS

Ammerdown Newsletter

Winter 2018

What's happening!

Since the Autumn Newsletter there have been some exciting new changes.

We have a New Director

The trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Director of the Ammerdown Centre – Emma Rawlings.

Emma has a good deal of experience in Education, business and the charity sector. I am sure that all of us will want to offer her our support as she begins her important work at Ammerdown.

Stuart Burgess, Chair of the Trustees

Celebrating 45 Years of The Ammerdown Centre in 2018

Ammerdown is celebrating its 45th birthday this year and we would love you to take part in our celebrations, so we are asking you for a few suggestions on how we can celebrate to mark the occasion.

Please do get in touch and share your ideas.



February morning at Ammerdown

*"Space, comfort and good food.
Friendly, clean, lovely natural setting.
We are always made to feel welcome".*
Bishop's Council Jan 2018

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A New Director for Ammerdown

Emma Rawlings writes

I am delighted with the appointment as the new Director of Ammerdown. It is such an exciting time to join the charity, with plenty of opportunities and work ahead of us, to take Ammerdown forward into the future and build upon what has already been established.



I am local to Ammerdown, growing up in a small village only 5 miles from the Ammerdown Centre. I was educated locally in my village school and a local secondary school. I studied at Bath City College, Yeovil College and Exeter University where I read education.

My previous appointments have been in Education as Head of Faculty, Curriculum Manager and Head of Admissions and Lecturing Business and Economics to 16 – 18 yrs olds. I held Store Management positions in food retail across the South West.

I thoroughly enjoy working within the charity sector, where I have worked in a large national charity for some 5 years, as their HR & Training Manager. I have also been a trustee for a charity based in Radstock, which supports individuals with learning difficulties, for 10 years where I strategically ensure the charity is operating and running smoothly. Positioning the charity to ensure it is profitable in income generation for the benefit of its members.

As I was growing up Ammerdown was always shrouded in mystery, in terms of what exactly was on offer at this establishment that sits at the end of a tree lined estate drive. As you can imagine, to my delight I was overwhelmed with the amount of excellent work, activities and courses that take place here at Ammerdown. So, one of my key objectives will be to build the Ammerdown profile and brand.

With the staff group and trustees at Ammerdown, I am putting together a robust strategic plan for the next 5 years, where we will focus on key areas within the charity to ensure Ammerdown is successful and in a strong position for the future. Once I have developed this and we have printed copies, I will send you your own copy.

I would like to reassure you that I hold Ammerdown's Core Values close to my heart and we will not deviate from these.

And I look forward to meeting you on your next visit to Ammerdown.



Interfaith Project update

In November, we held the Ammerdown Interfaith Consultation, inviting facilitators and participants to reflect together on Ammerdown's interfaith journey. We looked at the positives; the challenges; and the possibilities. Among the latter were ideas including: becoming a centre for interfaith education and dialogue and a centre for understanding and reconciliation; taking Ammerdown outside the physicality of Ammerdown; creating a 'think tank' in a safe place; engaging with women of faith; addressing issues together; holding a cultural/interfaith festival at Ammerdown; and Ammerdown as a place of healing. The list went on!

I have been busy networking with interfaith organisations in Bristol and Bath, places of worship and people of faith, as well as secular organisations including the city councils; members of Independent Advisory Groups working with the police; and SARI (Stand against Racism and Inequality). From these connections some of our possibilities are turning into reality. In conjunction with SARI, we are hosting a healing day at Ammerdown for victims of hate crime; we are taking our community minibus to participate in Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day (visiting places of worship for six different faiths); we are welcoming women of different faiths to an Ammerdown gathering; and we are partnering Bristol Multifaith Forum in a grant application to produce school materials promoting acceptance of diversity.

As always, I would love to hear about your ideas and connections.

Christine Clinch interfaith@ammerdown.org



Ammerdown Drive



Sarah's Reflection

As Ammerdown moves into a new season I am reminded of Lord Hylton's poem and part of a poem I wrote a few years back and would like to share these with you.

Peace flowing like a river
Peace streaming through my heart
Listen
Listen carefully
Listen to echo of life
That surrounds me
What is it trying to say?
Stop, go gently my friend
Take each step
Into the wonder of being you
Finding peace
Deep peace
Lovely peace
Hear it in the breeze
The changing of the seasons
As I change into a new season
The next step along the path of
life's journey
Journey into You
SarahChabowska ©2015

The Ammerdown Centre

Expressing and Living our Vision

*A garden of joy and delight
A spring of living water
A tent of welcome. A door of acceptance
A shared table of bread and wine
A meal to satisfy our common needs
A precious jar of healing ointment
A listening ear
A holy space, open to all
An invitation to the dance
A word of hope, encouragement and good news
A memorial to the victims of war and violence
A remembrance of humble saving power
A burning bush of unquenchable fire
A tangible sign of hidden salvation
A cross-roads and meeting point
A window, open towards heaven
A bridge of peace
A house of friendship
A Noah's Ark, a ship of fools
An encounter of personal faiths
and shared traditions
a shelter from the storm
a blessing on life's journey*
Lord Hylton, 2006

Introducing New Housekeeping Manager

Wiesia Koperla

I have been part of the household team at Ammerdown for 10 years. I am enjoying my new role as the Manager of an enthusiastic team. Ammerdown for me is a place where I like to make our guests feel welcome and at home and spend some time on a beautiful estate in the Somerset countryside. This means that the bedrooms have to be fresh and inviting, a place of rest after a full day. Every day creates a new challenge, you need to be flexible as changes can happen at the last minute.

When I am not at Ammerdown I enjoy spending time with my husband Jan (who also works at Ammerdown and takes care of Maintenance) our teenage daughter and son.

I look forward to continuing to welcoming you and making your stay a restful one.



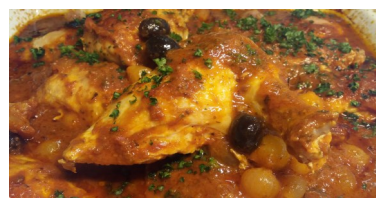
Ammerdown Chef Stuart Lockley's Winter Dish

Chicken Cacciatore

A wonderful hunter's stew from Italy. Serve straight from the pot onto a creamy bed of parmesan polenta.

Serves 6

1tbsp of olive oil
1 onion sliced
2 celery stalks, roughly chopped
2 medium carrots roughly chopped
6 chicken breasts
175ml white wine
3 tbsp tomato puree
500ml chicken stock
2 bay leaves,
2-3 sage leaves
1 handful of chopped tarragon



1. Heat oil in a frying pan and fry onion, celery and carrots for 5 minutes or until softened. Add the chicken and cook for a further 4 minutes until browned little.
2. Pour in the wine and cook until reduced by 1/2 then stir in tomato puree & stock
3. Add all herbs on a reduced heat for 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through
4. And serve straight from the pot on to a bed of creamy parmesan polenta

Meet Trustee

Sue Meadows



I was invited to become a trustee when the Sisters of Sion were running the Centre and the major building and refurbishment programme was soon to start. I was thrilled to get involved, as in my job as a journalist I have met people from all ethnic backgrounds and walks of life and my experiences have made me value peace, open dialogue and reconciliation between people of all faiths and none, all of which are at the heart of Ammerdown's mission.

As I live under two miles from the Centre I am able to help out whenever the need arises and to spread the word about Ammerdown within the many local community and interest groups to which I belong. My husband's Rotary branch raised money to refurbish a bedroom, and Inner Wheel financially helped the TLC and Carers Days during my year as president. I was delighted that, to mark my time as chair of Ammerdown trustees, window boxes of flowers were introduced to the building's fascia to give an extra greeting to the thousands who come to the Centre each year. In this rapidly changing and precarious world, the challenges are great and it is encouraging to be part of an active Board of Trustees and who with the dedicated staff we are well poised and enthusiastic for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your donations

As a result of our Autumn Newsletter we have raised £780 towards carpeting the Trevett Room and we are currently browsing through catalogues to select a carpet which will embrace Ammerdown's ethos. Thank you once again for your on-going support. Don't forget to Gift Aid your donations if you are a UK tax payer.

Coming Up:-

Conference :- Quakers for Criminals and Justice, who use our facilities on a regular basis.

For more information about our conference facilities email:

bookings@ammerdown.org

Ammerdown Courses:

- In Search of the Unknowable
- Positive Thinking' with Sue Glanville
- Easter Retreat with the ever popular Fr Daniel O'Leary
- Scriptural Reasoning (Christianity/Islam)

These retreats are popular so don't delay book your place today. Go on-line www.ammerdown.org/courses or email centre@ammerdown.org . We would love to see you!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our programme and venue hire

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Visit us on the web at
www.ammerdown.org

Registered Charity no.1010244
Registered in England no. 2685658

100 Club Winners

Valerie Hillebrandt (October)
Denis Jones (November)
Beryl Gover (December)
Sue Smith (January)
Margaret Guard (February)

Your questions, we would love to hear from you.

If you have any questions you would like to ask the director, please email them to director@ammerdown.org or write directly by post. Some of the responses will appear in the edition of the next newsletter .

Please send your questions in by 31st March.