



# The Ammerdown Centre Newsletter 2021



Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, we are incredibly thankful to you all for your support. It has been a challenging time but you have enabled us to open our doors as you have come to enjoy the events, courses and retreats in this beautiful, peaceful place. We have survived and hope to flourish as we enter the New Year!

Our new Ammerdown Quarterly News for January to April is now available. It is full of new courses and conversations about the things that Ammerdown is passionate about. Please do check online for courses in April and beyond. These can also be booked now. Unfortunately, there has been a technical glitch with the online Booking System. We are on the brink of launching it – thank you for your patience in the meantime!



SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) recently held training for our Staff on Hate Crime Awareness. The facilitators, Natalia and Martha were excellent and we are still talking about it, reflecting on our own behaviour, and assumptions. This training is funded by the National Lottery. Do get in touch if you are interested. In January, SARI are holding an Empowerment Session at Ammerdown. If you know anyone who has experienced hate crime, please do encourage them to come along.

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff – Tracey as Assistant Housekeeper and Olly as Gardener. Huge thanks to Ian Huxton who has continued to care for our garden in the interim period. Our new Social Justice Initiator, Lauren, has been busy, as you will read. Sadly, Gaber had to postpone his appointment.

In 2023, we will celebrate 50 years of the Ammerdown Centre – if you have any ideas for our celebrations or would like to be involved, please do get in touch!

Our Jewish friends are celebrating Hannukah as I write, our Christian friends are in the Season of Advent, on the brink of Christmas celebrations. We wish you all joy and peace at this time and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.  
Peace be with you.

*Christine  
Christine Clinch, Lead Manager*

## **An Update from Debbie**

Reflecting back over the last year and looking forward to 2022. It seems a long time since we were closed and lots of things have happened at Ammerdown since we re-opened our doors after the last lockdown in May 2021.

It has been very rewarding and challenging at the same time. The highlights were welcoming back old and new guests to Ammerdown, seeing the positive impact it has on people who come and stay and watching how relaxed and happy their time here makes them. Throughout the year - with the many rule changes going on with Covid-19 - we have kept our doors open for people who needed us, delivering the Ammerdown experience for all.





One of my favourite moments this year was having the NHS Chaplains stay with us over the summer, watching the magical effect Ammerdown had on them. Having the theatre shows performed in the gardens in the summertime was special too. The next outside event will be our Candlelit Christmas Carols on Thursday the 16th of December which I always look forward to every year.

Our refurbishment programme throughout the year has transformed the Centre. From brand new beds to new carpets and freshly painted walls in every bedroom, to changing all the taps to lever taps to help operate them. We have just finished upgrading Aldrich Cottage which is looking clean and sparkly ready for the next guests. We are looking forward to 2022 refurbishments and we have already started our wish list ready for the improvements.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Debbie*  
**Debbie Tutchell, Deputy Lead Manager**



## Introduction to Me

Hi, I'm Lauren Tutchell and I have recently started as the Social Justice Initiator here at the Ammerdown Centre.

### Toilet Twinning Campaign

One of the first projects I have initiated is our toilet twinning campaign. Tearfund is a Christian charity who tackle poverty using sustainable development, often working with churches in poor areas to implement culturally-appropriate and cost-effective aid. They set up 'ToiletTwinning.org' in an attempt to help eradicate toilet poverty. It costs £60 for the Tearfund team to build a toilet overseas and this includes a vital education programme which means that when people donate, they're helping to fund an education process that involves relationships, community meetings and workshops - all of which are crucial to ending poverty. Ammerdown aims to twin all the downstairs toilets – we have twinned 2 – 8 to go! We have a JustGiving page set up on our website and a money box in the coffee area in the Centre if you would like to help us – Donations of all sizes welcome.



### Candlelit Christmas Carols in aid of Refugees

This year at our annual 'Christmas Carol' service on Thursday 16th December at 7pm we will be raising money for Afghan refugees. We will have donation pots available so if you are attending this event and would like to donate then please do so.

*Lauren*  
**Lauren Tutchell, Social Justice Initiator**





### 100 Club

The 100 Club is a monthly draw where you pay a minimum donation of £12 for the year to be assigned a number. Each month one number is drawn and the winner receives £50 of the money. The rest is donated to the Ammerdown charity. A cheque is posted to the winner and their name is featured in the Quarterly Newsletter. Please contact the centre for information on joining the club.

**D Oliver – September 2021**  
**J Forrest - October 2021**  
**S Goddard - November 2021**

## A Warm Welcome to the French Kitchen!

If you have recently visited the Centre, you may have noticed there has been a slight change... or rather your taste buds might. We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Caterers - The French Kitchen, who now deal with all of our catering needs!

The French Kitchen is a Somerset based catering company catering for events in Wells and the surrounding Somerset area. They are located just outside the beautiful cathedral city of Wells in West Horrington at the foot of the Mendip Hills.

The owners, Ben and Laurent have been in catering all their lives and pride themselves on providing a high quality, professional and reliable catering service.



Ben says "Surrounded by amazing produce we have established strong relationships with excellent local food suppliers to ensure we source the best produce for our menus and we respond to the changing seasons, adapting our menus accordingly.

We have a fantastic team of chefs and front of house staff at the Ammerdown Centre who are really enjoying serving freshly prepared locally sourced produce with our friendly and efficient service. The team are looking forward to our first Christmas at Ammerdown!"

## Gift Shop

Most of the items in our gift shop are sourced by a company called 'Shared Earth'. They are a leading wholesaler of ethical products, carrying out the widest selection of sustainable and recycled items sourced from countries all around the globe. They are an extremely eco-friendly business, with the shipping of all their products being carbon-neutral, resulting in CO2 emissions of zero. They sell hundreds of recycled and upcycled products made from things such as plastic bottles, tins, computer boards and even bicycle chains. Artisans who make these items also get a fair wage, there is no exploitation and women are treated equally. If you're looking to buy someone a Christmas present, we have lots of amazing gifts.

Why don't you come to Ammerdown and make a difference with your Christmas shopping this year?



WHAT IS HATE CRIME?  
HOW DO YOU REPORT A HATE CRIME?  
WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU?



STAND AGAINST RACISM & INEQUALITY

# EMPOWERMENT SESSION

Join us at the Ammerdown Centre on Wednesday 12th  
January at 3.30pm-5pm. This event is **FREE**.  
Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact us to register and to find out more information or register on eventbrite.

**North Somerset and BANES-** natalia@saricharity.org.uk 07944888226

**Somerset-** martha@saricharity.org.uk 07742912152

interfaith@ammerdown.org 01761433709

## Ammerdown Fundraising Christmas Raffle

2021



Top Prizes Include...

- A Game at BathEscape or BathExit
- 9 Hole Manor Course Round of Golf at Farrington Park
- 2 Course Sunday Lunch for 2 at Farrington Park
- £50 Ammerdown Gift Voucher

See our Facebook for the other great prizes!

DRAW DATE FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER 2021

Please phone or visit the Centre to purchase your tickets now!

Over 18's only

£1 per ticket  
The Ammerdown Centre  
Ammerdown Park  
Radstock BA3 5SW  
01761 433709

