



# The Ammerdown Centre

## Newsletter 2021



### A Message from Christine

Dear Friends,

We are open!

At long last, Ammerdown is open and is welcoming guests once again! Our first month of opening has seen us welcome guests for private stays and cream teas, silver jewellery and mindfulness, retreats and theology. It has been wonderful to see people and have conversations and the sun has shone in our beautiful garden, at least for a few days!

We now invite you to join us for our new programme for the coming

months, laid out in the Ammerdown Quarterly News. Wide ranging from singing to watercolours and Godless Biblical texts to Centering Prayer, we hope that you will find something that interests you. Please do check out our Sunday afternoons in September, short talks and discussions helping us to reflect on faith today.

Zoom has connected us with people all over the UK and beyond, notably the USA, South Africa and Indonesia. We shall continue to use zoom in our programme occasionally and may also be able to connect you via zoom if you are unable to be at Ammerdown physically. Friday prayers will also continue on the Ammerdown YouTube Channel.

Ammerdown has welcomed the French Kitchen who now cater for all our needs. We have received excellent feedback from our guests and hope that you will come and taste their cuisine in August.

Busy Bees have brought energy and continued cleanliness to Ammerdown, while Ian has stepped in to keep the garden under control – we are extremely grateful to him!

As we learn to live with COVID, we realise the enormous debt we owe to our NHS Chaplains. In conjunction with the Community of the Cross of Nails UK & Ireland we are organising two two-day retreats for NHS Chaplains of all faiths at Ammerdown. The Chaplaincy Staff have been supporting COVID patients, their families who were unable to be with their loved ones and the hospital staff. The stay will be offered free of charge. We are asking for contributions from individuals and groups to sponsor this and would be so grateful if you would be able to help us thank the NHS Chaplains in this way. Please see back page for details.

We look forward to welcoming more of you back to Ammerdown over the coming months.  
With best wishes,

*Christine*

Christine Clinch, Lead Manager



## An Update from Debbie

As our guests have returned to Ammerdown or discovered us for the first time, we have received some very positive comments about our refurbished bedrooms. Our team has continued to work on the second stage of the redecorating development. By the end of August, we hope to have all the bedrooms in the centre freshly painted, carpeted and equipped with new beds to facilitate a better experience for our guests. We will also be adding two new electronic mobility beds to two of our rooms. The next project will be to refresh Aldrich cottage which welcomes guests throughout the year for a break away from everyday life, offering a peaceful place nestled here in the countryside.

We are very grateful to the Sperring Trust – who gave us a grant to buy a defibrillator. The defibrillator is located on the outside



of our building to the left of

reception. This will benefit not only our guests but the wider community, potentially helping to save lives. The Sperring Trust is a charity which supports organisations in the local area and provides financial support from the legacy of local resident, Ralph Sperring.



With summer here and the long summer evenings, we look forward to hosting two outdoor theatre shows in the Ammerdown garden. They are 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny' and Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. These are performed by

the Quantum Theatre Show and the Folksy Theatre respectively. We hope you will join us!

*Debbie*

Debbie Tutchell, Deputy Lead Manager

## Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us weed the cobbles!

If you would like to volunteer at Ammerdown – and there is a whole range of jobs - please email

[christine.clinch@ammerdown.org](mailto:christine.clinch@ammerdown.org)



# THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY



## The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny Quantum Theatre Show in the Ammerdown Garden

Join Peter Rabbit and his naughty cousin Benjamin on their hair-raising adventures in Mr McGregor's garden!

A family show suitable for all ages. Please bring blankets and fold up chairs and come dressed for the weather! Picnics welcome.

**Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 3pm**

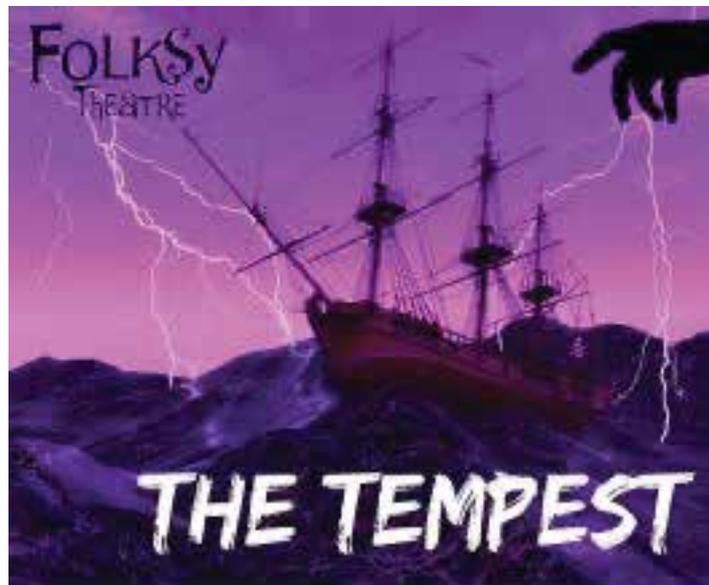
Adult Tickets £12.50 Child Tickets £8

Get your tickets here...

[www.quantumtheatre.co.uk](http://www.quantumtheatre.co.uk)

## THE TEMPEST Folksy Theatre in the Ammerdown Garden

Prospero conjures a storm and torments the survivors of a shipwreck, including his treacherous brother, Antonio. Meanwhile Prospero's slave, Caliban, plots to rid himself of his master but is thwarted by Prospero's spirit-servant Ariel. Ferdinand then falls in love with Prospero's daughter Miranda. Will Prospero grant Ariel her freedom and be restored to his dukedom? Will Ferdinand and Miranda's love overcome all? Folksy's wonderful outdoor production is filled with live music, colourful characters, enchantment and a little touch of magic. Bring along your picnics and folding chairs to enjoy this wonderful tale!



**Sunday 22th August at 7pm**

Adult Tickets £15 Child Tickets £12 Family £48

Get your tickets here...

<https://ticketstripe.com/events/1025398>



## Ammerdown is Live!

'At last, thank God!' That has been my thanksgiving prayer for the last four weeks. On the 17 May we welcomed guests to Ammerdown from near and far. I had been here for four months. For half that time I was here with very little to do except the odd Zoom meeting, recording prayers and of course, walking my dog, Otto, in these lovely woods. Then Christine, our lead manager, and Debbie, her deputy began to come in, first for the odd day or two a week, then full-time and everything started to happen. New beds arrived, old beds temporarily stored in the dining room. There were new carpets being laid, the decorating of bedrooms and Spring-cleaning done! It was all 'shoulders to the wheel', as not only those of us who live here, but other staff and family members who joined with professional workers to do the jobs around the centre. We worked up to the weekend before opening and we were ready to welcome our guests at last!



Ammerdown is 'live' and I have enjoyed being with people once again and fulfilling the role I was asked to do. I have been on duty at reception, welcoming those who arrive, some of whom have been longing to return after a long time away. I have cleaned, served tea, ironed, washed and folded towels, sorted trays, I have spent time with groups and individuals, some for Spiritual Direction and enjoyed an occasional meal with guests. I must add that we have very good caterers, The French Kitchen, who produce some very tasty and imaginative meals. I have been barmaid for the first time in my life and learnt how to use the card machine.

Ammerdown is 'Live!' I have enjoyed being here so much more now we are open and I have loved meeting new people and making new friends.

I was asked to come for six months and so I should be leaving at the beginning of July but I am going to stay a little longer and as I have only just started to do what I enjoy and have agreed to stay until the middle of August. Please keep Ammerdown in your prayers that we can continue to serve the regulars and the newcomers for time to come.

*Angela*

Canon Angela Townshend, Ammerdown Chaplain

If you shop with Amazon, please consider choosing Ammerdown as your Amazon Smile Charity.

amazon smile





## Climate Change and Worldwide Migration

On 8 June I joined an Ammerdown Zoom. The G7 were meeting in Cornwall, and the aim was to raise awareness of the issues in preparation for the meeting of Governments and advisers in Glasgow in November, called COP 26. Participants joined in from all over Britain.

Tess Humble from Edinburgh was our lead speaker. She had previously been the Director of

the Borderlands Project in Bristol, helping refugees and inner city residents. She touched our consciences by reminding us that a 'hostile environment' for refugees and migrants had recently been official British policy. We now live in a common 'Gaia', symbol of one shared Green Earth. Indigenous people are often the best guardians of this. Long despised or ignored, they have generations of experience in how to conserve our planet.

In 2019 major displacements of people took place in India, Bangladesh, Iran and Africa. Too many face the bitter choice of staying put or migrating. Most moves are from country to city. Many, however, have to cross borders. We have seen the drying of sub-Saharan Africa, forcing people to risk their lives to reach the Canary Islands, Spain, Malta, Italy etc. At the same time the United States and the European Union have been trying to close their borders. Newcomers may be suspect or unwelcome; nevertheless each year they send back to poor countries three times as much money as these countries receive in aid (from all sources).

Walls and Detention Centres are not the answer. Regional solutions will have to be found, in such a way that the whole burden of climate migration and flight from war, does not fall on the poorest people, least able to bear it.

*Hylton*

Lord Hylton, Ammerdown Founder and Trustee



Join us for **Caring for Creation** with Billie Anderson from Tear Fund and local grassroots people making a difference. **Monday 6 – Tuesday 7 September**



# Our thanks to the Sperring Trust



**for funding  
the purchase  
of a  
defibrillator  
for use by  
Ammerdown  
and the wider  
community.**

## Feedback from our Guests

*'A beautiful welcoming place'*

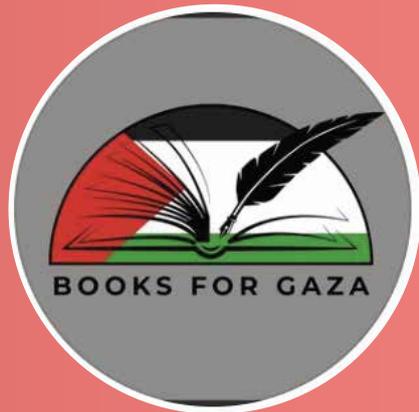
*'Its been deeply nourishing and your staff  
are ALL SUPERB deeply appreciated'*

*'The food has been excellent in quality, taste  
and variety'*



# BOOK COLLECTION POINT

Weekdays between  
9am and 6pm  
At The Ammerdown Centre



**We need English and Arabic books!**  
If you have any new or old books that you are able to part with, they will be greatly appreciated in the rebuilding of the library that was bombed in Gaza.

Please join this nationwide campaign and fill the books with messages of support for those affected by the bombing.

## Let's rebuild Gaza. We never give up!

For more information check it out on Instagram:  
[https://instagram.com/books\\_for\\_gaza](https://instagram.com/books_for_gaza)  
and on Facebook

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10161380777703298&id=623508297](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10161380777703298&id=623508297)



Ammerdown

100 Club

Win £50!



**Sophie Hicks – March 2021**

**Angela Singleton - April 2021**

**Jennifer Wilson - May 2021**

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.



# *Help us to thank the NHS*

*The NHS has been our rock, particularly over the last 16 months. Throughout this time, the NHS Chaplaincy Staff have been supporting Covid patients, families who were unable to be with their loved ones and the hospital staff. We are inviting NHS Chaplaincy Staff of all faiths to come to Ammerdown for a two-day retreat, where they can rest and relax, enjoy delicious food, peace and tranquillity – and be well looked after.*

*This is organised in conjunction with the Community of the Cross of Nails UK & Ireland.*

*The stay will be offered free of charge. We are asking for contributions from individuals, faith groups, organisations and businesses. The cost of each stay is £170 per person. Contact [admin@ammerdown.org](mailto:admin@ammerdown.org) if you would like to contribute towards the sponsorship of a Chaplain's stay.*

*The Ammerdown Centre  
Ammerdown Park  
Radstock BA3 5SW*

*The Ammerdown Team*

