



The Ammerdown Centre Winter Newsletter 2020



Letter from Rev Dr Stuart Burgess,
Chair of the Ammerdown Centre Trustees

Dear Friends

We started the year full of hope and anticipation for the year ahead, ready to welcome many guests to the Ammerdown experience. None of us could possibly have anticipated the Covid-19 pandemic which has had such a profound impact on people's lives and businesses. For many it has been devastating - shops, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, hotels - and many businesses have closed permanently. Sadly thousands have been made redundant and this has caused great personal trauma and led to mental health issues. We should all be grateful to so many people who have worked so hard through the pandemic - especially nurses and doctors, people working in care

homes, teachers, post office workers, the police and many others. Many have made tremendous sacrifices to keep, at least, some of the wheels turning. Life in our cities has changed and it is too early to predict the long term effects on commuting and office working.

Everyone has been affected, including Ammerdown. We have been closed for most of this year and when open we have only run on a limited basis due to Covid restrictions. Obviously our income this year has been negligible and overhead costs have remained the same. Sadly, we have had to make people redundant and we would like to place on record our thanks to all who have left us and our thanks for their varied contributions to Ammerdown. In order to survive, we have had to dip into our reserves and to restructure so that we can look to the future with confidence.

The season of Advent has a number of different strands but essentially it is a Season of Hope. The good news of vaccines to overcome the pandemic is very hopeful although it will be several months before a real difference is made and people's confidence returns. Going forward into 2021, Ammerdown can be a place which offers hope to people through the courses we run or being a place of peace and relaxation.

Presently it is difficult to produce a full yearly programme and we shall have to build up the Centre gradually. However, there are numerous hopeful signs and I am confident that people will be able to come to Ammerdown in the future and to see that, almost against all the odds, we at Ammerdown can be a symbol of hope.

For Christians, we look forward to the celebration of Christmas which celebrates God in Jesus coming to this messy world. In the 'Word made flesh' is our hope for the world, ourselves and Ammerdown.

Happy Christmas to you and all whom you love,

Best wishes

Stuart



News from Ammerdown

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the recent passing of John I'anson. John lived and worked at Ammerdown for many years, welcoming our guests. We are incredibly grateful for all that John did for Ammerdown and our guests and send our sympathy to his children Matt and Cathy. In the summer, we plan to have a Thanksgiving Service for John's life, at Ammerdown.

We celebrate, with Tina and Lee, the birth of their daughter Flo! Congratulations! And we look forward to welcoming Canon Angela Townshend, in the Ammerdown House of Duty Role, from January to June, 2021.

Look out for the Ammerdown Quarterly News, January – March, 2021. In lieu of our usual brochure, we offer you the AQN with many more courses planned. In the New Year, look out for more courses as they are added to our website.

Have you seen our new website www.ammerdown.org? Do check it out and let us know what you think of it!

Ammerdown has recently become the Multi-Faith Partner for the Voice and Influence Partnership, funded by the Bristol City Council. Read more on our website!



We are delighted to welcome The Farm Home Education Centre to Ammerdown! They are using part of our building, while they are looking for more permanent facilities.



The Ammerdown Christmas Appeal

Ammerdown has experienced a huge shortfall in its income during this last year. We know that there will be many calls upon you but we should be very grateful if you could make a contribution to Ammerdown this Christmas - small or large.

Please see our **Just Giving** page on our website.

Bank Details:

The Ammerdown Centre

Sort Code 40 52 40

Account Number 00005582

REF: Christmas Appeal

Cheques made payable to: The Ammerdown Centre

With our grateful thanks!

The Ammerdown Team

