

## News Letter - February 2021

Welcome to the latest Newsletter of 2021, now in the capable hands of our CEW Natalie.

### Our new feature, Chair Chatters with Barrie.

All the trustees hope you are keeping safe and well in the midst of all the problems associated with the Covid19 pandemic.

Despite the lockdown rules the trustees have continued with their work using Zoom meetings to ensure that we are meeting all the requirements of our funders. We are now getting down to the task of getting our major contractors appointed and confirming the detail of the scope of works. The aim is to ensure that work on the ground can start in early Spring this year. From ensuring we have a water supply, on site access, to wall repairs and conservation, archaeology arrangements to final design and interpretation all aspects are currently being finalised.

Look out for the Rotary Club of Evesham Facebook page where the Abbey Trust has been nominated as "Charity of the Month" as part of the Club's outreach programme to overcome the Covid restrictions. Evesham Rotary has been very supportive of the Trust and we thank them for their enthusiastic support.

There has been an appeal by the Churches Conservation Trust, which has responsibility for St Laurence Church, for volunteer wardens. The CCT has been very helpful over the years to the Abbey Trust and here is an opportunity to give something back. The volunteer wardens are responsible for opening and closing the church for visitors, checking on its use and occasionally acting as guides. The current guides have been in strict lockdown in view of their ages but for many years have been the local custodians of this lovely old church. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this role let Natalie know and we can pass on more details of how to get involved.

The last twelve months have been very difficult for all of us, both in our personal and wider lives. As we emerge from this dark period we can plan for a brighter future, a future that will include seeing action, and boots on the ground.

Thank you all for continuing patience, care and enthusiasm.

Barrie

### Community Engagement

Natalie started her role in mid-January but due to the current lockdown has been working from home. She has asked for a spot in this months newsletter so she could introduce herself. Over to you Natalie...



Hello, I'm Nat! It's very strange starting a new role during a pandemic and it's prevented me from meeting many of you in person during my first month. Here is a little introduction to me, hopefully soon some of you will be helping me in the office and we can talk in person.

I am originally from Herefordshire but made the move to Kempsey in Worcester after falling in love with a little thatched cottage. At the time I had visions of living a medieval life and growing my own vegetables and herbs – I've since discovered I have a bindweed problem in my garden.

I studied history at university and completed a Masters in the History of Medicine – I think this contributed to the herb garden idea. Since graduating I have spent 12 years working in education in various outreach and welfare roles. I am thrilled to be working with the Trust as it allows me to combine my love of history with working in the community.

I drink a lot of tea, probably too much, and have ensured the new office has a kettle. When lockdown lifts, I will be ready to pop the kettle on and welcome all volunteers and visitors. I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Nat

### Volunteer opportunities

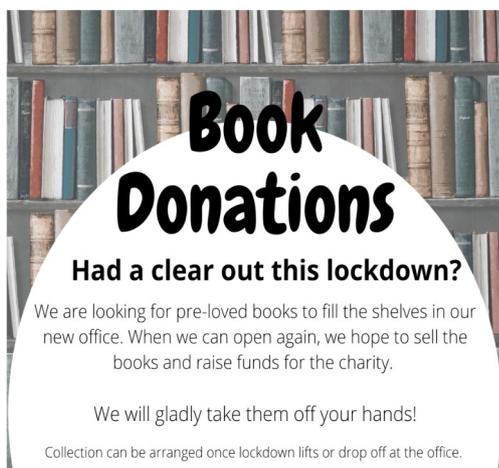
#### Archaeological Volunteers

Thank you to those that have already signed up to support the archaeological digs. We are still looking for additional volunteers so contact us if you are interested.

#### Office Support

When Covid allows, we hope to have the office open most days. If you would like to support us with this or simply want to find out what's involved, please contact us.

You can find the Trust contact details at the end on the newsletter.



**Book  
Donations**

**Had a clear out this lockdown?**

We are looking for pre-loved books to fill the shelves in our new office. When we can open again, we hope to sell the books and raise funds for the charity.

We will gladly take them off your hands!

Collection can be arranged once lockdown lifts or drop off at the office.

## Education update

Local schools have had a hard time over the past twelve months but we are delighted at how positive and enthusiastic our teacher group has remained about their pupil involvement in the Trust programme. They have loads of ideas and plans for involvement with the Abbey and its history once their children are back in school.

To help keep schools engaged, Elizabeth Spencer has been working with Vision-mix to produce 5 short educational videos that can be watched online. The videos tell the story of the Abbey Site, Evesham's history and the work of the Trust.

They have been shared with our partnership schools, and put on our website and YouTube page for everyone to view. Follow the instructions opposite to view the films. There might be a few faces in there that you recognise.

To watch the educational videos click, 'watch the video' link below.

This will take you to the Evesham Abbey Trust YouTube page, where you can view all five films.



[Watch the video](#)

## Office Update

The office in the Riverside Centre is beginning to take shape. We have set a work station up for Natalie, installed the internet, connected an office phone and put some pictures on the walls. Barrie relied on Natalie's eyesight to make sure the picture's were straight, they didn't get it right first time!

In order to use the office in the current time, a Covid risk-assessment has been completed to ensure the safety of volunteers, visitors and staff. A hand sanitising station has been placed by the door, a track and trace QR code is on display and face masks need to be worn by all visitors whilst in the Riverside complex and office. There are currently barriers in place by Coffee Moments in Riverside. Unfortunately, this blocks our access to the office but is part of Riverside's Covid measures. Riverside have asked that anyone wishing to access the office lift the barriers to gain access. Once lockdown lifts these will be removed.

A QR code has also been placed in the coffee shed on the Abbey site, and we will be popping one up in the allotment area.

Whilst we are still in lockdown, Natalie will be in the office every Tuesday. This will be reviewed as, and when, government guidance changes. We are staying optimistic and hope to be in the office full-time before long.

EAT Office - when we first moved in.



## Useful contact details

Office Phone Number:

**01386 335 361**

(Natalie is in the office every Tuesday. Voicemail is set up if you'd like to leave a message.)

Email:

Community Engagement Worker  
**natalie.hanson@eveshamabbey.org.uk**  
 Trust Chair  
**bbaldelli@gmail.com**

Website

**eveshamabbey.org.uk**

## And finally...

To echo Barrie's opening words, thank you for your continued support. We are hear to answer any questions or queries, or simply if you just want to let us know how you get on helping Eof with this wordsearch.



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 EVESHAM  
 ABBEY  
 MONASTERY  
 CLOISTER  
 AVON  
 ABBOT  
 BENEDICTINE  
 SAXON

Take care and keep well.



Don't forget we are also on Facebook - Search Evesham Abbey Trust