



Worcestershire  
**Headway**  
Supporting life after Brain Injury

HEADWAY WORCESTERSHIRE LTD

# NEWS

January 2014

ISSUE 16



## 25th Anniversary

In 1989 Headway Worcestershire grew out of a small room next to the fire station in Malvern Link, manned by volunteers, family members and carers of people with a brain injury.

It was set up initially as a support group to cover a gap in the service for those affected by brain injury. Since then Headway Worcestershire has grown from strength to strength, diversifying and building its services along the way. We plan to celebrate our silver anniversary with a number of events, including a conference at the ABI College in Evesham on 14th May, during National Brain Injury week (12th-16th May). Watch out for more events in our next edition.

We also plan to launch an anniversary

fundraising appeal with a target of £25,000. The fund will be used to support people at home and people who also attend our day centres who do not qualify for state funding and have not the private means to pay for these services.



## Future Lives & Reduced Funding

Worcestershire County Council are facing big cuts in their government grants, so organisations that provide services funded by the council are about to have their funds reduced... and that includes Headway. Mel Akers, Chief Executive explains "A lot of the practical support we provide in people's own homes is paid for by the council. It's our early intervention / preventive work that will be cut, people with higher level needs should continue to be funded".

## We are looking for volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of our team and our services cannot run without them. We have opportunities across the whole of Worcestershire and the roles are varied and interesting. At the moment we are trying to focus on three key areas; more volunteers for our charity shop, more volunteers for our Day Services and volunteers for a new 'befriending' service we are hoping to set up soon.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in volunteering for any of these rewarding roles, please contact **Claire or Pauline at Headway 01905 729729** or you can email [pgardner@hwtl.org.uk](mailto:pgardner@hwtl.org.uk) for more information.



## Newsletter e-edition

We are looking to expand the reach of our newsletter. When our website has been updated we will be posting the newsletters to it and there will be an archive of all the old ones too. We are also hoping to build a database of readers who we can send our newsletters to via email. If you would like to be included on this list, please email [abarton@hwtl.org.uk](mailto:abarton@hwtl.org.uk) and she will add you on. Then you will never have to risk missing an edition!

## WORCESTER DAY OPS

### Thank you - Fundraisers

Thank you to the organisers of Soitiz who organised a 'techno bash' at a secret location in Worcester in December on behalf of Headway. There was a live set from 'Bad Boy Pete' amongst others. The event raised a massive total of £650 for Headway service users! Well done guys and thank you.

Thank you also to **Pink Lady tattoo parlour** who raised £100 for Headway with their 'name the skeleton' competition. The tattoo parlour which is located on the Tything in Worcester, generously donated a free tattoo to the winner of the competition. Thank you to all who entered the completion!



## CHRISTMAS WITH HEADWAY

**Worcester Outreach** All staff and service users are suitably refreshed after the Christmas celebrations. The service users had a great night at the Perdiswell and Mel (our new chief executive) took no time in getting into the Christmas spirit including competing in the skiing competition!

### Headway Service User Christmas party

Xmas was a very busy time of year for the north Worcestershire team again, seeing lots of parties and get-togethers. The North Worcestershire team held two Xmas meals this year for its clients, one in Stourport and one in Bromsgrove, everyone who attended had a great time.



## WORCESTER DAY OPS

Our name the doll competition was very successful.

Thank you to everyone who took part – all proceeds raised will go towards the Worcester Day Opportunities!!! The winner was Ester Robinson (from Stourport) who correctly guessed the name "Angela" – congratulations!



We have a new activity timetable and we are offering more activities. Quizzes and games, computer courses, google pop reflexology and massage. A couple of service users will be starting supported volunteering at the countryside centre. This is alongside our other excellent activities like arts and craft.

Some of the service users are doing a jungle themed project. **Jenny West** is doing a massive crocodile and **Jeff Robinson** is working on a leopard head. There is also a dodgy looking spider started by someone who will go unnamed! It is hoped that for the next Action for Brain Injury week we can display this at the Hive.

We are lucky enough to have amazing volunteers supporting staff and clients in the centre – thank you to them!

## WORCESTER OUTREACH

Welcome to new starter **Amber Reece**. Amber started with the outreach team in mid-January and everyone is looking forward to meeting her. We have lots planned for the year ahead including celebrations for Dickinson Court's 15th anniversary. Dickinson Court now has a Christmas tree planted and festooned with solar lights in loving memory of **Keith Finch**. Three cheers to a healthy and prosperous new year to all Headway friends. Lyn and the gang xx

## MALVERN AND EVESHAM OUTREACH

Malvern Outreach had a lovely Christmas and would like to share a feel-good story with our Headway friends. After years of no contact with his daughter (who is now 17), Simon Smith received a message from his sister-in-law saying that his daughter wanted to meet him. He was so excited and spent the next few days leading up till the meeting worrying about what to say and what she would think of him. They met in a coffee shop in Malvern with his sister-in-law and had a lovely time and they now see each other every week and speak and text regularly. It was such a lovely thing to happen to Simon and he is now looking forward to making up for the lost years without her. A few tears were shed by staff as well as Simon and his daughter. It was just what Christmas is all about.

We also had a Christmas party at Malvern Rugby Club on Wednesday 18th December for all of the Malvern Outreach Clients. It was a really good evening, **Mike Skilbeck** sang a few tunes as well as DJ'd. One of the residents, **Darren Stuart**, also did a little DJ set. It was a fairly good turn out and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

We welcomed **Mille Medakovic** as a support worker at the end of October into Evesham Outreach and he has settled in really, really well. We all think that he is doing a great job; he has taken to the job so well and feedback from service users is that he is really making a difference – well done!

## CQC INSPECTION

We have recently been inspected by the CQC. They spent the day with us and went through lots of paperwork and spoke to service users and staff. They have made a report that will be published for everyone to see. As yet we have not had the completed report back but early indications are that we have done very well. You will be able to find the new report when it is published by going to: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/node/445840>.

## STOURPORT AND BROMSGROVE DAY OPS

Stourport Day opportunities held a market in Kidderminster town centre on Thursday 19th December, selling cakes, pickles and chutney, as well as jewellery and craft items made by service users at the centre. **This was a massive success and we raised over £250** for our 'trips out' fund. Special thanks to "**Peg & Trev**" who braved the elements on the day along with staff and volunteers from Headway House.



Our day service enjoyed a Christmas fare at the local pub and a great time was had by all. Stourport day service had a trip to theatre to see sleeping beauty which was amazing, and we all had a fab time, we all liked Joe Pasquale the best, and yes, on the way back we did the song "I know a song that will get on your nerves!"

## OUTREACH

The Bromsgrove and Stourport Outreach team have now moved into their new office successfully, the office is still located at the Wendron Centre but in another part of the building.

The team waved goodbye to a long standing service user **Anne Lane** who has moved to pastures new.

The team wish both Anne and her family all the best in their new home in the South of the country. Anne, will be missed by all.

**Gary Willis** has been working hard with support worker **Steve Prosser** to rebuild computer skills. Gary lost his vision following his brain injury and approximately 18 months ago Gary hit his head again and has since struggled to remember how to operate his computer. He is working really hard and developing new skills every day. The process is extremely difficult for Gary but he is striving hard to achieve his goal.

**Evette** would like to thank the team for all their hard work and dedication. Keep up the great work guys!



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