



WESTON TRIPS

Thanks to a very generous donation of £760 from the cricket team at Victoria Carpets, service users from North Worcestershire Outreach and Day Services were able to enjoy two typical British trips to the seaside at Weston-Super-Mare.

We were unbelievably lucky with the weather on both days and a great time was had by all.

A lot of work goes into organising such large trips and we were grateful to have a volunteer from Sanctuary Housing to support service users enjoy their days out.

It's been a busy summer and we are looking forward to more of the same this autumn.

We are holding the AGM at 7pm on Monday September 22nd at Headway in Gregory's Mill Street. The AGM will be the launch pad for our new website and much more. For more information about the AGM or to confirm your attendance, please contact Abigail on 01905 729729 or ABarton@hwtl.org.uk

We would also like to update everyone on some funding news. We are grateful to the County Council as we have had only a 52% cut to our supporting people funding (which although is a substantial cut, is not as bad as was expected). Although our funding will be cut again in time, we can for the time-being continue with only small disruptions to this service.

Recruitment

With a bit more certainty funding wise and a growing demand for services we are always on the look-out for support/care workers in our outreach teams and sessional staff and therapists able to teach/share a hobby or skill in our day opportunities programme. We are also looking to recruit a new trainee Psychology Assistant. **For our latest vacancies please contact Abby on 01905 729729 or email a C.V. to ABarton@hwtl.org.uk**

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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 cwtownend@hwtl.org.uk and she will add you on. Then you will never have risk missing an edition!



Stourport Garden

Thank you to students and volunteers from the Prince's Trust who renovated Stourport Day Centre's garden in time to enjoy all the glorious weather.

The house has a large garden area, which had become overgrown and unmanageable - the students discussed with our staff and service users the objective of the garden and what would make the area more user friendly and plans were generated by the trust to ensure clear access, safe pathways and raised beds for planting, weeding and propagation of vegetables. Funding for the renovation was helped by a donation from the Monday night bingo group at the Rising Sun, in Lombard Street. The newly refurbished garden was inaugurated with a traditional English Tea Party in August. Here is what Mary Scott (service user) had to say about it:

"The garden party at Headway House was a great success; we made bunting, decorated table clothes and iced cakes, while Rachael and Barbara worked hard in the kitchen to cook all the lovely food we had. Sue Johnstone worked extremely hard to organise the event, and we played some games. The wellie wanging was great fun with Rachael and Trevor being the winners, the coits was great, we had a boccia tournament which Stephen and Lee won, we all had such fun, the weather was lovely, and our local tescos and co-op donated prizes for games."



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MESSAGES FROM THE TEAM

Dickinson Court is holding a **Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September at Gregory's Mill Street (WR3 8BA) between 10am-12pm**. If you would like to donate a cake or come along and help us eat them, for a very worthwhile cause, you are very welcome. For more information or to donate a cake contact Lucy at Dickinson Court on 01905 756336 or LPage@hwtl.org.uk

Last year's Macmillan coffee morning was a real success



After 18 months, a lot of hard work and determination by Headway **North Worcester**

Outreach, friends and family we have managed to successfully house **Michael Boddey** from a very unsuitable 3 bed house to a lovely 1 bed flat. Michael is now able to get out and about independently and is great for all to see. Congratulations and good luck in your new pad Michael.

North Worcester Outreach have also been busy getting **John Sutton Smith** moved from a bedsit to a lovely 2 bed house in Kidderminster. Everyone has worked really hard in getting this set up for John and he is keeping it clean and tidy and enjoying having room to move in. Well done John, keep up the good work!

Since our last issue we have welcomed at least ten new volunteers who have all made a huge impact on our services. We are really grateful you have come on board!

Paula Bellamy had her baby Poppy on Sunday 24th of August.

Worcester Outreach welcomed a new support worker **Deb Lynes** – great to have you on the team Deb!

All residents at Dickinson Court have had new patio doors fitted. Lyn would like to thank Worcester Outreach for working extremely hard throughout the summer. Great job guys!

Unfortunately **Steve Prosser** one of our much loved and respected outreach support workers has decided to leave us, we would just like to take this opportunity to wish him lots of luck and all the best in his future.

Thank you to the Rotary Club for organising the annual boat trip for our service users in July – we had excellent weather and it was enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank Sanctuary Housing for inviting us to join their Corporate Volunteering Scheme. Not only did they support us on a trip to Weston-Super-Mare but also in our Charity shop. We think they enjoyed the day as did everyone.

Rachael from Worcester North Day Centres wishes to thank all the support workers and volunteers for their enthusiasm and can-do attitudes over the summer – it has made a huge difference to the services we have provided.

Please keep Harping on!

Thank you to Audrey Douglas and the Focus Harpers group who played a beautiful recital to Worcester Day Ops service users. It was much enjoyed by everyone – service users, staff, volunteers and students. We are looking forward to their return at Christmas for Caroling.



Three 'pears' for the Scooter Club!

The Three Pears Scooter Club have been busy over the summer with a campaign of fundraising and events to support Headway and the work we do across the county.

It started back in June with a donation of £380.00. Michelle Cartmell managed to arrange for Barclays Bank to match this donation bringing the total to £760! Thank you to Barclays Bank!

Then the scooter club scooted an 80 mile trip to Weston-Super-Mare raising £1,000 for Headway. Scooter club member Steve Descher said: "A convoy of nearly 20 vintage scooters travelling for 80 miles in 27 degrees wearing piglet outfits is not your average Saturday sight. But we believe in Headway's cause as one of our members suffered a serious head injury - it's giving a bit of support to something worthwhile whilst pursuing our passion for scooters."

Headway staff, service users and volunteers were able to return the support at the Club's fourth annual Big Bash in Broughton Hacket. The event was packed with hundreds of people who flocked to see the live bands, DJs, karaoke, bars, food tents, bucking bronco, bouncy castle, water zorbing and even a fishing contest.

FUNDRAISING

Headway would like to say a special thank you to regular donors **Jen and Ray White**. Ray, a former service user, and his wife Jen create home-made greetings cards and sell them at local farmer's markets and fetes. Over the past year they have donated nearly £250 to Headway, not to mention the time donated making and selling their beautiful cards, all whilst spreading the word of the work we do across the county. Thank you both very much.

A big thank you goes to all our supporters who have been collecting via our collection tins. **The Star Inn at Upton, Grinnells Fruit and Veg in Stourport and HMP Blakenhurst** are among the venues – thank you for your continued support.

Thank you to **David Page** for donating £54.28 to fund a trip for the Worcester Day Opps service users.

Redditch County Councillors **Graham Vickery and Robin Lunn** have donated £500 and £250 respectively in an effort to help get a Redditch Day Centre up and running. The service will be running from the Redi Centre (now RYCE). For more information please contact Laura Hall on 01905 729729 or LHall@hwtl.org.uk

Thank you to **Desiree Birch** who has raised £200 for service users in the north of the county following a garden party that was held in July.

Last year the former Mayor of Bewdley, **Councillor Linda Candlin** made us her charity of the year with the Bewdley Town Band. As a result of all her fundraising we will be formally presented with a substantial cheque later this month

Fundraise for Headway and your efforts will make a real difference to people with a brain injury across Worcestershire. For more information, ideas, inspiration and resources please contact Claire on 01905 729729 or email cwtownend@hwtl.org.uk

Self-help Group

People with an acquired brain injury are the real experts when it comes to recovery. This is the idea behind a self-help group that met for the first time in Bromsgrove this month. The group got off to a good start sharing experiences and deciding how the group would run. They discussed their experiences of brain injury and how it's often described as a hidden disability because you look O.K. and that they feel people do not understand the effects of the injury. Much good humour was generated. One member said what annoyed her the most was people saying 'well it could have been worse'. 'It could have been worse' became the catch-phrase of the group who seemed to enjoy a bit of gallows humour. **Anyone who would like to join the group please contact Mel or Tracie on 01905729729**

