



Worcestershire
Headway
Supporting life after Brain Injury

HEADWAY WORCESTERSHIRE LTD

news

WINTER 2014

ISSUE 19

Seasons' Greetings to our service users, supporters and staff, I hope 2015 brings all the things you wish for.

It has now been a year since Alan handed over the keys (there were a lot of keys) to Headway. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year learning all about brain injury from service users and staff and seeing a really committed group of staff doing great work

Next year is our 25th anniversary so expect a few more fundraising events. If you can put the fun into fundraising let us know your ideas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year

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Website Launch

The AGM held at the end of September was again well attended by volunteers, staff, service users and stakeholders all eager for a recap on the previous year and poised for a clue on what to expect in the year ahead. We also thought it was the ideal time to launch our new website!

The inevitable time had come for Headway to look at our online identity and branding; and we have worked really hard to create a website which provides people with the information they need, but will also champion our campaigns and messages. We regularly update what's happening in and around Headway and the website is packed full of information service users may need and also will support us to recruit volunteers, staff and to fundraise. Go ahead and have a look for yourselves www.headwayworcestershire.org.uk



STAR AWARDS

The AGM was the perfect platform to recognise some special contributions made to the charity over the years.

Firstly it was time to say goodbye to **Paul Griffiths** who has played an instrumental role in the stability of Headway for many years. Paul received a 'politically correct' joke book and a voucher for Malvern Theatres as a way of saying thank you.

We also wanted to recognise the hard work of our **Volunteer of the Year – Rafe**. Rafe consistently supports us in our charity shop, in our day centre kitchen, as a panel member for recruitment interviews and much more. Thank you for all your hard work Rafe.

There was also opportunity to recognise the commitment of the longest serving member of the staff team – **Laura Hall**, who has worked for Headway for over 12 years! Thank you to them and to all the volunteers, staff and trustees who work so hard to make Headway what it is.



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Red Carpet for Headway Movies

Headway Worcestershire has just launched two new movies (one short and one longer version), These movies help illustrate what we do for service users, their families and carers, and also for professionals, students and staff.

The movies capture both the emotion and the reality associated with brain injury, giving personal accounts from head injury survivors. A big thanks is extended to Rafe, Val, Jan, Keith, Dawn, Rob and David for sharing their experiences, which will be a great help to those who have also had a brain injury. The movies also promote the valuable work that Headway does up and down the county in supporting those affected by brain injury. The movies were funded by an anonymous donation to Headway, with the request that the money was used to produce a promotional film – so thank you to the person who generously donated this money – we hope you like the video.



To watch the video go to www.headwayworcestershire.org.uk or visit our Facebook page – Headway Worcester Trust or Twitter @HeadwayWorcs or on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrq7agvnC0k>

Former Mayor of Bewdley presents large donation to Headway Worcestershire

Councillor Linda Candlin organised several events such as quizzes, bingo evenings and sponsored haircuts during her year as mayor, raising more than £5,400 for Headway Worcestershire and the Bewdley Concert Band.

The fundraising included a sell-out “night at the proms” in Bewdley with music from Bewdley Concert Band, the Isle of Man Wind Orchestra, Jonathon Darby and local soprano Claire Warboys. Mrs Candlin said: “I chose Headway Worcestershire as one of my charities because of the help and support they provided for my family during a very traumatic period in my eldest daughter’s life. They were there to advise and point us in



the right direction when all we could think about was living from minute to minute.”

We are truly grateful for the support that Councillor Candlin and her team have given to Headway and it’s service users. This money will go a long way towards funding services for people in both rural villages and towns across the county - which is not easy considering the size of Worcestershire.

Other fundraising and donation news

We were very grateful to receive a donation of around **£1,000 in memory of a supporter** who died recently. Needless to say, we appreciate being thought of during such a difficult time for the deceased family, and would like to pass on our condolences.

Thank you to the Worcester

Christadelphians (based in St George’s Lane North) who have donated **£175.39** to help us continue to provide services across Worcestershire.

Sue Johnstone (who works at Headway Stourport Day Centre) and her mum have raised a massive **£385.00** for Stourport Day Centre by holding a coffee morning in Kidderminster. This money will be used to help pay for Christmas activities, at Headway House! Ho Ho Ho!

Thank you to **Lyppard Grange Primary School** pupils and parents for donating such a large quantity of harvest festival goods to Headway this year. We are distributing items to our service users and keeping some of the tinned goods in store for good-will Christmas hampers.

Worcester University RaG (Raise and Give) are on board with fundraising for the year ahead and we hope they will be very successful! Jack Buczynski (Worcester University RaG officer) has been awarded a permit for street collecting for 22nd November and the team are committed to help out with future fundraising activities too. Not only will this reinforce the already strong relationship we have with the University and its students, but any money raised will go towards providing services to those who have been affected by brain injury across the county. We’ll keep you updated...

A big thank you to the **Dragon Inn on the Tything** in Worcester for donating **£250** to us. This was raised at a couple of quiz nights and one of the regulars suggested the proceeds be donated to Headway. We really appreciate it and this money will be put to work making the lives of brain injured people better.

Headway would like to thank NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group for supporting us as their chosen charity, resulting in fundraising a total of £216 for adults with brain injury across Worcestershire.

The commissioning team have monthly collections and various other activities to raise money for local organisations and charities. On this occasion Headway Worcestershire was selected and a series of fundraising events was organised including boules matches, a farmers market, fundraising activities and collection tins. Thank you very much on behalf of everyone at Headway!



As a direct result of our new website we have started to receive online donations, most recently one from Sarah Woodward – thank you! Online donations can be made securely through PayPal and are an easy and quick way to support our services. Online fundraising is another way to support us, and we have set up ‘digital’ methods of donating at the ‘justgiving’ and ‘textgiving’ services. For more information on ways to donate, please go to our new website.

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

Mel’s thought for the quarter

Private home care agencies using zero hours contracts and minimum levels of pay hit the headlines last week. Not paying travel time enables some employers pay less than the minimum wage. This is not the case at Headway where we offer guaranteed salaries, proper contracts of employment and pensions... but we have to compete with some agencies who short change their staff.

As a society we continue to under value home care. When speaking at conferences I’d ask if anyone could explain why if my house needs it’s plumbing sorted, I pay £50 per hour,

but if my gran needs assistance with her waterworks, I pay £10 per hour? Sorry for the undignified image, but my gran was incontinent in her later life and using that example was a way of demonstrating how we pay such low wages to skilled staff providing intimate care.

One part of the problem is the response of local authorities to the massive cuts in social care budgets. Spot purchasing and lowest price wins brokerage has driven down prices. Block contracts or reliable demand for services allowed organisations to plan ahead and invest in staff.

Is the tide turning? The NHS is starting to realise the vital role of social care. Social care can be the solution to healthcare issues, whether these issues are assisting with discharge from hospital or preventing people ending up at their GP or A& E service. Even government minister Eric Pickles seems to have understood the message pledging £5billion increase to health and social care funding at home. Thanks Eric, I hope you deliver on this promise and an apology for short changing the many vulnerable people who have suffered over the last 4 years would also be welcome.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Service User Christmas Party

Service users are looking forward to the festive period and the service users annual **Christmas party from 7pm on Thursday 11th December @ New Chequers Pub** on Astwood Road (Worcester). There will be a free buffet and entertainment provided by 'Midlife Crisis' - thanks to Dave Baker, Netty and Colin. For more information please contact Abigail Barton on 01905 729729 or email ABarton@hwtl.org.uk

Xmas Fayre

Worcester Day Opportunities will be holding a **Christmas Fayre on Friday 12th Dec 10.30am-2.30pm**

There will be Market & cake stalls, a Raffle, Tombola, music and much more. Any donations will be greatly received! Please contact Laura Hall on 01905 729729 for more information or email LHall@hwtl.org.uk

Ann's having 'The chop'

Service user Ann, has lovely long hair and has decided to get it cut off to raise money for Headway

Worcestershire! Ann, who attends our Worcester Day Centre and receives support from our Outreach team, is going for the chop on **Thursday 4th December at about 1pm and it will happen right here at our Worcester Day Centre**. We think you are very brave Ann - thank you.

For more information please contact Ann's care/support worker Sue Standing at Dickinson Court on 01905 756336 and to support Ann, please donate via 'textgiving' and text: SHIR19 + the amount you wish to donate to 70070 - Thank you!



Macmillan Coffee Morning!

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a staggering £410 which included donations from the event itself and from Nexus Housing!

Thank you to everyone who baked, ate and donated the lovely cakes and to Lucy Page and her team for organising it! We also want to give a huge thank you to Gainsborough Bakery in Kidderminster for making such a wonderful cake for us at a hugely discounted price.



OTHER NEWS

Welcome Sam

Welcome to Samantha, who is our new Day Centre Manager for Worcester. Sam has joined us from Stonham Housing and has a wealth of experience to bring to the role. We hope Sam settles in well and we are certain she will help to make a real difference to the work we do.

Stourport and Bromsgrove Day Services

Stourport and Bromsgrove service users will be celebrating Christmas with a traditional Christmas lunch, a coffee and mince pie morning, and a fun filled Christmas activities week. We have a Christmas raffle and a 'name the bear' which will be running from the last week in November, all money raised will go towards Stourport's day centre activities fund.

Rachael and the team in Stourport extend a warm welcome to June Baker, who has been appointed to run the art and ceramics in the north, she has already empowered our service users to achieve some excellent results, well done June - keep up the good work!

Worcester Outreach and Dickinson Court

Dickinson Court residents are in the process of having new double glazed windows and doors fitted which will save on the heating bills.

Staff have been working hard and focusing on their training - Sue Standing and Deb Lynes have both been working on their Common Induction Standards and Damian Homer and Amber Reece have both been studying to complete their diploma work. The team have also been working hard to make sure all service user files are up to date, and have been conducting audits to ensure that we are reaching all the expected standards, to meet CQC guidelines. We have had a few 'twilight zone' incidences for example, Jan turning up to work on extra days and Irene talking to the plants she has kindly planted around Dickinson Court, but it just goes to show how dedicated the team is! It really is a pleasure coming to work with such a fantastic bunch of people!

Thank you to Worcester Sixth Form for inviting us to come and talk to their Y12 students who are studying an enrichment programme. We gave two, hour-long presentations to students interested in training as health and social care professionals about Headway and brain injury. The talks were so well received we have been invited back to run them again for would-be medics. Thank you for helping us to get the issues surrounding brain injury on the agenda!

Recruitment

With a bit more certainty funding wise, and a growing demand for services we are always on the look-out for volunteers and 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. **For our latest vacancies please visit www.headwayworcestershire.org.uk**

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!

