



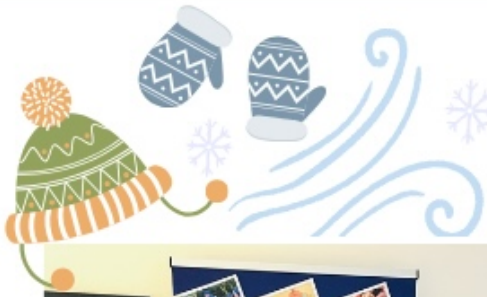
Mince Pie Fundraiser

'Eyes on the Pies' was the slogan for Headway Worcestershire's Mince Pie Fundraising morning, held on 6th December, in both Worcester and Stourport Daycentres. Worcester client Freya helped to make an incredible 60 mince pies for the event. Attendees were encouraged to make a small donation for the mince pies, which raised a fantastic total of £70! Clients in Stourport joined with friends and family to enjoy their mince pies accompanied with tea and coffee served in beautiful fine china. The fundraising event was open to everyone should they have wished to hold their own fundraiser at home.

Throughout the whole of December, The Mince Pie Morning event was part of a wider Headway campaign across the UK, aiming to spread awareness and raise funds, whilst offering a chance for clients, their friends and families, plus supporters, to join together and socialize during the festive period.

Look out for future fundraising events coming up in 2024! If you have fundraising ideas or events, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Fundraising Manager Glen at gjansen@hwtl.org.uk





Christmas Fayre & Awarded Grants

On December 9th we took part in this year's Christmas Fayre at The Hive in Worcester; a fantastic opportunity to spread awareness of our wonderful charity, and raise vital funds.

Fundraising Manager Glen was joined by Volunteer Nigel and Bromsgrove client Undine to man the stall, which was situated amongst other fantastic stallholders on the upper level of the building. Ceramics, paintings, crafts, and greeting cards made lovingly by our clients, including Undine, were sold raising an outstanding total of £228! The event also served as a brilliant networking event, which has since created valuable links with others in the community.

We were thrilled to receive a £10k grant, awarded by the *National Grids Community Matters Fund*, to provide Winter Warm packs to Outreach clients under the name 'Stay Cosy & Comfortable'. Pictured above-left, CEO Mandie Fitzgerald, volunteer Nigel, Worcester client Jenny, and Wellbeing Services Manager Suze Filkin, accepting the award.

Friday clients from Worcester Daycentre enjoyed a trip to watch a local festive brass band, here's clients Mark D, David C, and Jenny pictured with the musicians.

We held a brilliant raffle during 2023's ABI Games in August; one of the prizes was a fantastic meal voucher at Worcester Wetherspoons. Client Jenny was the lucky winner and treated fellow client Mark L to a delicious meal out on New Year's Eve!





Christmas Tree Festival

We're always thrilled to be part of Worcester Cathedral's annual Christmas Tree Festival. This year, myself and Woodwork Tutor Morgan, constructed a tree using scrap wood and upcycled furniture drawers. Each box represented a different part of Headway Worcestershire. The bottom-right box was Wellbeing Centre, showcasing the range of activities we offer at all three Daycentres, including art, ceramics, cooking and games. Bottom-left box was dedicated to our Outreach services which included positive quotes from our wonderful clients. The middle boxes represented Fundraising, a vital part of our charity, and our Woodwork Workshop in Worcester, with particular focus on the ongoing upcycling project. The top boxes displayed information on our Worcester Charity Shop and ways to volunteer, plus our incredible ABI Games Event. The central-top box symbolized our fortnightly Mindfulness sessions, run by Emma Hamel, and our counselling services. Clients from all three Daycentre's contributed beautiful rustic decorations, which really completed the look!

Our Christmas tree is on display in Worcester Cathedral until Sunday 14th January 2024, during normal visiting hours - 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday (last entry 4.30pm) and 12.30-3pm on Sundays (last entry 2.30pm). Please check out Worcester Cathedral's Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/WorcesterCathedral, where you can vote for our tree by clicking 'like'!





Christmas Lunches Week

Our Chef Paul made sure he ate plenty of Weetabix to maximise his energy levels in preparation for Christmas lunch week! Along with help from the team, throughout one whole week, Paul prepared a staggering 200 Christmas lunches for clients, volunteers, and staff to enjoy at Worcester Daycentre. The annual event wouldn't be complete without a visit from Santa, of course! Fundraising Manager Glen donned an impressive inflatable costume, welcoming clients with his rendition of '12 Days of Christmas' - a sight not to be missed!

The Christmas Lunches are an incredible tradition that we love to offer each year, for some clients this may be the only festive lunch they are able to enjoy.



Panto

Another annual tradition of ours, a visit to the panto! This year, 70 clients, staff, volunteers, and relatives ventured down to the Swan Theatre in Worcester to watch this year's performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The theatre was full of laughter and shouts of 'He's behind you!', finished off with a few shout outs to our clients from the cast.

We were incredibly grateful to, friend of the charity, Clare L Jones who raised a fantastic total of £529 via a Facebook birthday fundraising campaign, which helped pay towards panto tickets. Clare, now an English expat, lives in Florida but still loves and supports her hometown of Worcester!





Wrapping Up 2023

We ended the year on a high - December was full to the brim with festive cheer and cherished memories. December's Employee of the Month is awarded to our incredible chef, Paul West, for creating such fantastic lunches for us during the busiest time of the year, plus all-year round of course!
Well done, Paul!

Worcester client Hilary made beautiful Christmas cards, which sold like hot cakes at the Hive craft fayre. Outreach clients Mark L and Jenny got into the Christmas spirit having their photo taken with Kevin the carrot.

In 2024 we have plenty to look forward to. To name a few, a 10-week creative workshop programme run by Kay from Worcester Museum, our annual Hats for Headway event, a charity golf day, and plenty more trips.

If you have suggestions for activities, days out, or visitors to our Wellbeing Centres, or opportunities for our clients I'd love to hear from you!

Please email me:

MMcCutcheon@hwtl.org.uk

Meg McCutcheon, Activities Coordinator

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER 2023

Paul West

For keeping a cool head throughout Christmas week & creating fantastic lunches for Headway Worcestershire

