



News & Views

Celebrating Headway's long history

Our CEO Sue Tyler celebrated an incredible 30-years with Headway Birmingham & Solihull this summer, an occasion we marked with a small presentation at our monthly management meeting.



"Sue has worked tirelessly since the day she first joined Headway, helping it evolve from a small support group for carers meeting once a month at a local pub to where we are today – a highly-regarded local charity offering specialist services at every stage of the brain injury journey through our three brain injury centres, our one-to-one Life-styles Services and our Carer Services.

Sue is modest about her own involvement but enormously proud of how far the charity has come since those early days.

She said: "I joined just a few months after Headway House started offering daily services. The charity has come such a long way since then, and there have been huge changes along the way as we strive to do the best we can for the brain injured community."

She said the last three decades haven't been without their challenges.

"The number of acquired brain injuries has continued to grow," she added, "And we still struggle to get brain injury defined as a separate category in its own right, affecting the resources and funding available to tackle its impact. However, we have made some important in-roads in recent times.

"For instance, we now work more closely with the QE and other local hospitals, and this early intervention is helping avoid crisis situations and family breakdown, and aiding long-term outcomes.

"And our Lifestyles Services mean we can extend our support for brain injured people in their homes and out in the community, as well as at our centres."

She confirmed our focus for the future is to continue to develop to meet the growing needs of those affected by brain injury. This will include the launch of some new services, including our Services For All programme offering a wider choice of sports and wellbeing activities to promote better health for the whole family and a range of new programmes for brain injured people at different stages of their journey.

Work to install a lift at New Sutton House is due to start shortly, Headway House is having a face-lift, and some essential repairs to the exterior of Leighton House and some internal decorating will follow.

Every effort will be taken to minimise the impact of this work and we will look forward to sharing updates and photographs in the next edition of the newsletter.

The Amazing 'Mr Ed Way'!

We would like to thank fine artist Craig from Birmingham Centre for Art Therapies (BCAT) for delivering such a fantastic art therapy course at Headway House over the summer months.

During the classes, clients were encouraged to look back on their lockdown experience during COVID and discuss how it had affected them emotionally. Working together, week by week, Craig helped them gather their thoughts and put them, layer by layer, into one giant piece of artwork they christened 'Mr Ed Way'!

This proved hugely enjoyable and beneficial to all the clients involved, helping them see a more positive way ahead.



The completed piece is due to go on display later in the year and we will share details of this on our social media page so that everyone has a chance to see Mr Ed Way in his full glory!



Carer's Week

We recognise that our carers have had a particularly difficult 12-months and so it was wonderful to bring them together during Carer's Week for our annual BBQ to enjoy some food and some company after so long.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED... We have lots of volunteer vacancies, so spread the word!

Out in the community!

In recent months, we've been encouraging our Lifestyles Workers to take some photographs to help illustrate the type of support they provide through our Lifestyles Services.

We love this picture of client Gurinder Singh taken by his Support Worker Amandeep. On the face of it, the pair are out enjoying a coffee together at a local café. But that's not the whole story. Amandeep is also supporting Gurinder as he completes an online application for a volunteer role on his laptop.

Fingers crossed he finds the opportunity he is looking for!



Remembering Charlie Varma

Our heartfelt thanks go to the family of client Chaman Varma who made a donation to Headway Birmingham & Solihull in his memory. Chaman, aka Charlie, sadly passed away in 2020, but is remembered fondly by everyone who knew him at Headway House.

His wife, Kemlesh, and her sister, called by recently to see the memorial bench purchased with the donation.



Fishing sessions are go!

A grant from the Northfield branch of Birmingham City Council's Neighbourhood Network Scheme (NNS) is enabling some of our clients to return to a sport they love – fishing!

Their generous donation will ensure weekly fishing sessions stay on the sports programme until the end of the season, allowing us to offer subsidised entry and the kit needed to participate.

Thank you to Lois and the team at NNS Northfield for making this possible J.

Hearing loops

We now have new hearing loop systems at each of our brain injury hubs.

These portable devices are used in conjunction with a hearing aid and assist listening by helping overcome background noise.

Clients Miles and Jacqui are pictured (right) trying out the new system at New Sutton House.



**DONATIONS... Don't forget we always need your donations for our charity shops
...clothes, toys, books, small furniture, bric-a-brac, furnishings etc!**



Improving life after brain injury

Registered Charity No. 1008798
Company Reg No. 2686647

Leighton House
20 Chapel Rise,
Birmingham Great Park,
Rednal,
Birmingham B45 9SN

Headway House
Moseley Hall Hospital,
Alcester Road,
Birmingham B13 8JL

New Sutton House
380-384 Birmingham Road
Wylde Green
Sutton Coldfield B72 1YH

Website:
www.headway-bs.org.uk
enquiries@headway-bs.org.uk

Contact telephone:
0121 457 7541

Headway Charity Shops:

Headway Fashion
69 Thornbridge Avenue

Headway Homes
71 Thornbridge Avenue
Great Barr
Birmingham B42 2PW
tel: 0121 357 1296

Headway Fashion
183 New Road, Rubery
Birmingham B45 9JP
tel: 0121 453 4798



And finally...

Congratulations to Neil Armstrong and his sons, George and Harry, who recently completed the Three Peaks Challenge in memory of family friend Ken Humpherson, who sadly passed away last October following a brain haemorrhage. The trio raised an amazing £835 for Headway Birmingham & Solihull as they completed this gruelling hike. Thank you so much!

We are always looking for donations of clothing, shoes, books, accessories, toys, games, ornaments etc for our charity shops and also appreciate the occasional 'more unusual' item, such as this fruit squeezer donated by Alan Bressington from our Carer Services team. This turned out to be a very collectible kitchen gadget created by the designer Philippe Starck which sold on eBay and raised £35 towards our brain injury services. Please send any unwanted/pre-loved collectibles our way, and thank you again to Alan for donating this and other items!

Our Super-Fundraiser!

Thank you!

Sincere thanks to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire for their recent donation of £1,000 towards our brain injury services. We want them to know their generosity over the years is never taken for granted, but always very much appreciated!



The event has raised an incredible £1,668 to date towards our local brain injury services, which includes Gift Aid and a generous £500 match-funding donation from Rob's employer, Legal & General.

Thank you all for going that extra mile on our behalf!

Tour de Gorilla

We were delighted to be chosen by the Gorilla Coffee Café in Kings Heath, Birmingham as their partner charity for their iconic Tour de Gorilla cycling event.

This multi-day cycling event, now in its second year, was designed to help boost the spirits of Gorilla Coffee Café Cycling Club members during lockdown.

Julie Wedgbury, our Communications & Fundraising Manager, called by at the café to find out more. She met the owner, James Connolly, and some of the team behind the event, including Neil (Bruno) Brown and Rob Anderson, all keen cyclists.



More match-funding!



We would also like to thank Helen Finch for running some online yoga sessions during lockdown in aid of Headway Birmingham & Solihull. With donations from those taking part combined with a £250 match-funding donation from her employer, IMI, Helen raised a total of £545. This is a fantastic amount and one that will make a real difference, especially with so many of our own fund-raising cancelled during COVID. Thank you, Helen!

A juicy donation!

