

## Fundraising in a Snowy December!



**Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to support our fundraising activities in December!**

First we held our Christmas Fayre at the Beeches Evangelical Church in Great Barr and despite a drizzly December day, we raised nearly £500 through our traditional tombola and raffle. Our Santa's Snowballs stall also proved particularly popular! Thank you to The Entertainer, TGI Fridays and Evans Cycles in Sutton Coldfield for donating such generous raffle prizes.

Unfortunately our stall at Longbridge Christmas Market later the same week was

all but snowed off and the Lions Festive Walk in Knowle, this year in aid of both Headway Birmingham & Solihull and Breast Cancer Haven, was also affected by the snow. Nevertheless nearly 800 walkers and their dogs turned up and completed a small walk in the beautiful countryside around the National Trust property at Baddesley Clinton, making it worthwhile for all those who volunteered their time to help on such a cold day. The promise of mulled wine at the end of the walk was also a big attraction!

*Pic: Braving the snow at the Lions Festive Walk*

## People At Work

## Rick Wise interviews Lee Edwards

**Lee Edwards, 34**, is the Carer Services Manager based at Leighton House. He describes himself as "very much a family person", and this became very evident when he witnessed the effect on his family after his brother suffered a brain injury following a motorcycle accident in 2006.

"Seeing the difference Headway support made to my brother has been an inspiration"

"My brother, who was only 18 when the accident happened, became very isolated and the impact on the family was tremendous" said Lee. One day Lee was visiting his brother and got chatting to the Headway support workers. "They told me that Headway were recruiting.

I was working as a prison officer at the time and was at a crossroads in my life following divorce. After some careful thought I decided that Headway was for me!" said Lee, who started as a Lifestyle Support Worker in 2014. He moved on to become a caseworker with Carer Services and was



promoted to manager in December 2017. "It's a new challenge and learning curve, but it's also exciting and I'm enjoying it" Lee told me. "Headway are very committed and positive in their approach and seeing the difference their support made to my brother has been an inspiration. He's improved tremendously thanks to Headway—he now lives in his own house and got married at Christmas!" he continued.

Since joining Headway Lee has a new partner, Holly, and they have just bought a house together. Daughter Esmae, from his marriage, is a very important part of Lee's life, and more than anything he loves spending time with family. Oh, he also does a bit of gardening and DIY in his spare time!

## Rachel - Caring for Carers!

**Rachel Kinning** is married to client Martin who acquired a severe brain injury after being savagely mugged in 2008. Rachel became his carer and wife, and they have a daughter Sophie, 4. Together with help from Headway Martin has gone from strength to strength. Rachel really appreciates the help the family have received and wanted to give something back. Not only a Trustee on the Headway Board, she has also started volunteering for Carer Services! She is supporting Nancy Khan in a new post of Families / Events Facilitator, so a carer is using her

experience to help others! "It's really nice for a Carer to talk to people who understand" said Rachel who went on to say that a lot of

Martin's improved confidence has come through Headway: "We are so grateful, and it is good to be able to help others".

*Pic: Rachel, Martin and Sophie share a family moment*





## Fundraising

### KNOWLE FUN RUN

We're now looking forward to the next Knowle & Dorridge Lions Club fundraising event – the 35<sup>th</sup> Knowle Fun Run on Sunday 20 May. While we would encourage any runners amongst you to sign up and give it a go, we are also in need of volunteers to help marshal, a role that is always great fun. Please contact [fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk) if you could spare a few hours.

Before this we have our own **Easter Fun Run** on Sunday 25 March in Cofton Park, Longbridge. Thanks to the support of Frenkel Topping for a third year, we'll be handing out a fantastic Easter-themed medal to all participants as well as a full-size chocolate Easter egg. Again this is a lovely event to be part of, so why not walk the route with us if you don't fancy running it! See our facebook page for full details or contact Julie Wedgbury at [fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk).

As always, all proceeds will go towards our brain injury services in the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

### BRAIN INJURY WEEK

The theme of this year's Brain injury Week in May will be **You, me, and brain injury**. The aim of the campaign organised by Headway UK is to show that brain injury doesn't just affect the individual, but also their family, friends, colleagues, and many more relationships besides.



As in previous Brain Injury Weeks we will be holding a **Hats for Headway Day** on Friday 18 May! Simply wear a wacky hat for the day and donate £1 to Headway Birmingham & Solihull. Share your photos if you'd like to on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #HatsforHeadway.

Contact [fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk) for an information pack.

**HUGE THANKS** to the Birmingham Medico-Legal Society for donating £1,000 towards our work with brain injury. We were pleased to welcome Angie Manley from BMLS to Leighton House brain injury centre to show her the range of rehabilitation sessions we run. And we wanted to thank her directly for the society's generous donation!



*Pic: Client Stuart Giddings gives the official Headway thank you to Angie Manley from the Birmingham Medico-Legal Society.*

### LINE DANCE

Big thanks to the Double R Line Dancers who held a dance in Shirley, Solihull on 4th February and raised £225 for Headway B&S!

Thanks also to Mike & Suzi Sheridan who came along to sing for everyone !

### DEBBIE BAXTER

Debbie will be running in the Virgin London Marathon for us this April.



Good luck Debbie from everyone here at Headway Birmingham & Solihull !  
Visit:  
[www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) to support Debbie.



Improving life after brain injury

Registered Charity No 1008798  
Company Reg number 2686647

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**LOTTERY FUNDED**

### IMPORTANT DATA PROTECTION CHANGES

We are getting ready for changes to The Data Protection Act 1998 which come into effect on 25 May 2018. Commonly referred to as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), these changes aim to give people greater control over how their personal data is used. We are updating our policies and procedures in order to comply with these changes and will require your help as we do so. How can you help? Over the coming months, we will review the information we hold on file for you and ask you to sign to give us the permission we need to process this data under the new legislation. We thank you for your patience during this transition period.

### GOOD LUCK JEANETTE !

Client Jeanette Earp has been attending our ABI service for the last thirteen years.

Originally in a wheelchair, during her time with Headway Jeanette has improved enormously - so much so that she became a 'buddy' to new clients! She would take new starters under her wing and make them feel welcome, ensuring they knew what to do or where to go. Because of her own experience she was able to offer other clients so much support - always very kind and caring with them.

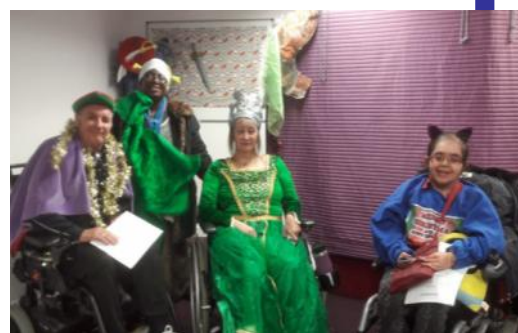
Jeanette, who now walks with just the support of a stick, has moved on to the point where she is able to start a new life with her daughter in Plympton just outside Portsmouth. This is a big step for her, and shows just how far she has come. She has made so many friends and made such an important contribution during her time at Headway B&S that she will be sorely missed!



*Pic: Gill Davis presents a good luck balloon to Jeanette*

### DRAMA GROUP SUCCESS

The annual drama group performance took place on 4th December in the Woodlands. Staff and clients from Leighton and Headway House gathered to watch *Puss in Boots* - a huge success!



*Pic: Some of the cast*

## VOLUNTEERS

**Headway depends on its team of unpaid volunteers in order to offer a high level of client service, and more volunteers are urgently needed.** We have vacancies in most areas of our work but in particular we are looking for the following:

**Volunteer Anglers to help with our fishing group on a Wednesday at Alvechurch; Charity Shop Assistants in Great Barr and Rubery; General Sports & Wellbeing volunteers.**

**Interested? Please call Alison in Personnel for more details on 0121 457 7541 and please pass this article on to anyone you think might be interested in volunteering!**