

Headway Monthly Bulletin



Issue 33

March 2012

Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland Headway
Providing support for people with brain injuries

A Big Thank You to Michael Switzer . . .

by Mary Goult

We have been adopted! . . .

We were delighted to get a call recently from Spire Hospital in Oadby to say that we have been adopted by their Social Committee as their charity for the year.



This is great news and we're very much looking forward to working with Pat Mansfield and her team on fundraising events over the year.



JustTextGiving™

by **vodafone**

Headway Leicester is governed by a group of dedicated volunteers who make up our board of trustees, they all give their time, knowledge and experience for free, steering the strategic direction of the charity to ensure its continued success. Michael Switzer has been a trustee for over 13 years, and Chairman for 8 years and has seen the organisation go from strength to strength. Headway has been very fortunate to have access to Michael's extensive



knowledge and expertise gained from years in business and from his roles as governor for Leicester College and as a member of a health trust board. Besides his talents as a trustee,

Michael is also pretty handy in the garden and has worked tirelessly in the Headway garden as a volunteer for several years. Sadly Michael has announced his retirement as both trustee and gardener due to the demands of his own garden and his growing commitments as a Granddad!

We would like to thank Michael for everything he has done for Headway, it has helped shape the organisation to be the success it is today.

. . . and to Marietta Sharp

Headway Leicester legend, Marietta Sharp, is leaving us after more than 21 years with the organisation. A qualified Occupational Therapist, she started at Headway as a volunteer before eventually working her way up to day centre manager. Marietta has always shown a huge commitment to the charity that she believes so passionately in; often organising activities, shopping and sourcing materials in her own time. It is impossible to capture all of what she has achieved whilst at Headway or the adventures she has been on, but she has

done residential trips as far flung as Cornwall and Norfolk and has admitted that the 8-day Cornish trips were a real test of endurance, often with little sleep!!

Aside from the obvious tasks that Marietta has been responsible for, there are other gaps we will need to fill, these include; creative director, gardener, plant seller, entertainer, organiser, photographer, camera woman, shopper and odd job woman! I personally will miss our discussions on the pronunciation of words (I am a Leicester lass through and through) is it bath or barth? Laff or larf?

Marietta's last day at Headway will be on Friday, 30 March. It will feel odd without Marietta's presence and she will be sorely missed, but I hope that when she returns from her adventures she will stay in touch with us at Headway. *We're looking for a new gardener. How are you fixed Marietta?!*



Do you have Green Fingers?

... and do you have some time to spare in the week?

We are looking for a volunteer to spend a few hours a week helping the members to tend the garden at Headway House. We need someone who is patient, reliable, knowledgeable and willing to get stuck in to the work with the minimum of supervision. You will need to undergo an enhanced CRB check for the role, and will need to be fairly fit. If you are interested, contact Zina Visa on 0116 2739763.



Headway
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LEICESTER AND RUTLAND
HEADWAY
4 HOSPITAL CLOSE
LEICESTER LE5 4WP
Tel 0116 2739763
Fax 0116 2733212
Email
headway@headwayleicester.org.uk
Website
www.headwayleicester.org.uk

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The Great Cash Giveaway

In February The Leicester Mercury and Leicestershire Community Foundation ran a competition for local charities to win £1,000 – and we won! Of the three nominated charities, we got 66% of the 832 votes which is a fantastic achievement, and shows just how popular we are.

The money will be spent on some radio controlled nitro cars, tools and equipment to help our members improve their skills and provide them with interesting projects to work on. Friday member James, was keen to get in on the action when The Mercury came to visit,

and he starred in the article and photo that was in the paper the following Monday. We were all thrilled with the win, and the publicity it has generated, we're hoping it will lead to lots of new supporters. Thank you to everyone who voted, it means a lot that you were there for us.

Watercolours

Friday members have enjoyed some art sessions during February with Ian Mitchell, art tutor: He comments:

I really enjoyed working with the group on doing some Aboriginal style art work. We did profiles of everyone's faces and then painted bold, strong colours onto cardboard, then stencilled shapes and added lots of stippling (dots of colours). The results were very striking!

Members also commented:

I really enjoyed today's session.

We were painting and trying to find hidden talents – hopefully Ian will come back next week!

We learnt how to mix various wonderful colours and to add black or white to darken or lighten colours.

Thanks to Ian for helping everyone, to see they have talent and that it comes from inside us all.



Ricky's masterpiece

Ian has amazing talent and was able to teach us using his expertise, he is such a genuine person!

Do you need help after an accident?

Osborne Morris & Morgan
Solicitors & Neurolawyers
Danbury House
West Street
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire LU7 7DD
Tel 01525 378177
Fax 01525 851006
Contact Tim Woolford
[Link to website](#)

Harvey Ingram LLP
Solicitors
20 New Walk
Leicester LE1 6TX
Tel 0116 2545454
Fax 0116 2554559
Contact Robert Rose
[Link to website](#)

[Link to website](#)
Nelsons Solicitors LLP
Solicitors
Provincial House
37 New Walk
Leicester LE1 6TU
Tel 0116 2226666
Fax 0116 2337822
[Link to website](#)

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Solicitors
Imperial House
108-110 New Walk
Leicester
LE1 7EA
Tel 0116 2014000
Fax 0116 2014002
Contact Jane T Williams
[Link to website](#)

Bray & Bray
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Spa Place
36-42 Humberstone Road
Leicester LE5 0AE
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Fax 0870 3835023
[Link to website](#)

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Solicitors
The Lakes
Northampton
NN4 7SH
Tel 03700 863195
Fax 03700 863460
Contact Chris McKinney
[Link to website](#)

Irwin Mitchell
Solicitors
Consulting Office Leicester
Suite 122, 1st Floor
Gateway House
4 Penman Way
Grove Business Park
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 1SY**
Tel 0116 289 4622
[Link to website](#)
** consultations are by
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Please note that Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland Headway does not recommend any particular solicitor.