

Headway Blackpool Wyre & Fylde AGM Chairpersons Report

8th September 2020

by Marie Sloan, Chairperson

At the end of my third year as Headway Blackpool Wyre & Fylde Chair of Trustees, I look back with an overall sense of pride for what we have achieved. It hasn't been an easy year as we've tried to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to provide services and support to our members; from a distance and on a shoe-string due to the gap in our fundraising opportunities.

I believe, with the support of some fantastic staff and a dedicated committee we have achieved a great deal to be proud of this year.

As you will know this AGM should have taken place in April 2020 but was postponed till September 2020 due to COVID-19. We had hoped to be able to hold the AGM in person, however we have had to adapt and this AGM is now being held 'virtually' via Zoom – just as all our other committee meetings and drop-in's have had to take place since the pandemic began.

The Treasurer's report will detail, the amount we have raised during the past 12 months, I believe it has been a great achievement to raise these funds in the current climate.

I detail below a look back the events and activities that took place since April 2019:

- May 2019: Our best Family Fun Day to date at The Newton Arms pub; live bands entertainment vintage cars and plenty fun was had by all – raising £1250
- June 2019: Sam hosted a birthday fundraiser on Facebook - raising £250.
- July 2019: The Charity Golf Day saw member Chris Murray open the event with an emotional speech and fantastic tee-off.
- Aug 2019: Jonathan Spriggs donated after doing the Great North Run and member Mark Smith hosted a birthday fundraiser online via Facebook.
- Oct 2019: Erin Ward aged 13 created our first Headway Blackpool Calendar and sold 95 copies; donating all the money to Headway Blackpool.
- Nov 2019: We held the Tapps Quiz Night in Lytham with Queen Street Mafia winning. We raise £1065 on the night. The Newton Arms Firework Display supported by Blackpool Police Cadets whom volunteered on the evening was a great success.
- Dec 2019: We held our annual Christmas meal for members and committee. Jon White and Keith Whigham both dressing to impress! Sam and new member Hannah a hosted a stall at a Christmas Fare selling handmade crafts and raising £100.
- Feb 2020: Members Keith, Chris, Lizzie and key sponsor Aaron (from the Newton Arms) were filmed for some short videos to share on our website, social media and at the Masquerade Ball. All detailing the services we provide here at Headway Blackpool.
- March 2020: COVID-19 took hold. We went into lockdown and began our drop-in sessions and committee meetings via Zoom.

- April 2020: Members took part in a pool competition at Stockport with Headway Salford and Stockport with our own Jon White getting to the finals, placing 2nd!
- May 2020: Pink Link business networking group hosted online Zoom Hats for Headway Day and raised £63 online. Both the Hats for Headway events with members and also the Family Fun Day at The Newton Arms were cancelled so Aaron Johnson, Manager at The Newton Arms and Sam hosted a 'fun and games' event online, with entertainment, quiz and bingo via Zoom raising £1003.
- June 2020: Member Elena Mawdsley hosted a Facebook birthday fundraiser; raising £100.
- July 2020: Member Chris Murray hosted a Facebook birthday fundraiser; raising £123. We received a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund as well as a grant from Lancashire COVID-19 Community Fund.
- Aug 2020: The short films of Members Keith, Chris, Lizzie and key sponsor Aaron (from the Newton Arms) are signed off and have begun to be shared across our website and social media.

Items to Note:

- Blackhurst Budd Charity of The Year came to end in June 2019; culminating in a charity netball event with donations of £1000 for the years fundraising.
- A presentation and Hats for Headway tea party at Kirkham grammar school with member Lauren Thompson raised £1000

Drop-In Session Events:

- Arts crafts with Lacey Berry making Xmas fare items, cards and much more.
- Singing with Emma Jackson.
- Physiotherapy exercise, fun and games with Kayleigh.
- Cooking with Sue and Scott from Rehabilitation for Independence.
- Visit to Wheelz For All at Stanley Park
- Day trip to the Boot Inn at Eskdale for afternoon tea party funded by Trustee Mark was a huge success.
- Woodhouse Opticians took us on as their Charity of Year. We began showcasing the artwork of member Jon White.
- Brickhouse cottages hosted a Christmas Mince Pie Event.
- Sam did a presentation to 243 businesses at the Blackpool Business Leaders group at Blackpool FC Ground.
- Committee Member Angela hosted a curry night and brunch at her and Keith's hotel for all members.
- Trips out bowling remain very popular! Keith bowled unsupported which was fantastic to see.

Committee Changes

This year we gained two committee members; Angela Whigham (in 2019) and Barry Price (in 2020). I am delighted to welcome them to the Charity.

Kat has agreed to take on the role of Secretary along with her role as Marketing and Communications Manager.

The Future

I would be happy to continue to be Chair of the Board of Trustees for the coming year and welcome your thoughts on this.

With the current climate being very difficult for small charities, such as ourselves to find funding to survive.

We should also continue to look for new and innovative ways of reaching our members (face to face meetings, in-doors is still difficult). We don't want them to feel isolated and we hope to provide the services they need in way that they want to receive them.

We also hope to generate more referrals and grow our membership as more people become aware of the services we provide and the positive difference we can make to those with brain injuries, their carers and families.

I want to thank all the Board and the Committee for their dedication and service over the past 12 months, I value your input and support and hope we can work together further in the coming 12 months.

I'd also like to say a special thank you to our Network Coordinator, Sam Ashcroft, who has worked tirelessly, going above and beyond to support our members this year. During one of the most difficult few months we have experienced she has remained positive, offering extra services; shopping, garden visits etc. to our members – some of whom are the most vulnerable in society. We greatly appreciate this and I'm delighted to note that she has been nominated for an Enterprise Vision Award – well deserved!

Finally, I would like to finish the Chair's report by thanking everyone for attending this AGM and being involved with the Headway Blackpool Charity. I look forward to the coming 12 months together.

Marie Sloan

Chair of the Trustees & Director
Headway Blackpool Wyre & Fylde
7th September 2020