

**A bumper harvest!** No – we haven't turned our hands to farming, but it's been a bumper harvest in terms of food donations from schools and churches – We've already had donations from Bromsgrove Baptist, Catshill & Lickey End Methodist Churches, Christchurch Catshill, and Bromsgrove, Lickey End First, Millfields and Catshill Middle Schools – it's much appreciated by us and of course, by those we support. The picture



(right) shows pupils from Winterfold House School in Chaddesley Corbett carrying in some of their donation. In addition we've received bags of food from the Hinton Group, based in Bromsgrove, (Hayley Cartwright from Hinton's is seen (left) with Barb from the Drop In) and from Trefoil Guild – who we might refer to as very senior Girl Guides! (right)



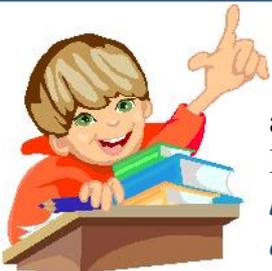
**...and on the theme of food...**

...a group from the Prince's Trust, led by their worker, Jo Frampton (front right) came to the Basement on two Fridays recently to run our Free Food Friday.

Thanks Guys!



**Did you know...**



...that we offer talks and activities for young people in schools, about issues that can arise and how to deal with them if they do. One recent visit resulted in the School Pastoral Manager stating *"Your contribution was significant in helping pupils understand how to lead safe and respectful lifestyles ...both pupil and parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and it was evident to see how much the children enjoyed your session"* and a pupil wrote, *"...thank you for enlightening us on street safety and bullying...it definitely opened my eyes to the sort of situations that could occur and how to handle it correctly"*.

**New Community Liaison Officer**



The independent review we commissioned in January suggested that we hire someone to liaise closely with the local community to maximise opportunities for us and our clients and to that end Sophie Harrison has joined us on a part time basis as our new Community Liaison Officer. Sophie has been a volunteer with us since the start of 2017, prior to which she had been concentrating on her studies, graduating with a degree in English Literature from the University of Liverpool in 2016. She plans to run her Masters at Birmingham University alongside her work at The Basement. At school, university and since graduation Sophie has volunteered for various organisations, both locally and in the North West, which are experiences which she hopes to build on in her new role with us. Welcome Sophie!

**Did you know...**

...that the Basement is classed as a "Safe Place"? The Safe Place scheme gives vulnerable people a short term 'Safe Place' to go if they are feeling threatened or upset when out and about in their local town.



**Keep informed and join the fun!**





**THANK YOU!**

Once again we have many people to thank for donations & financial support, including (but not limited to): Let's Connect; Broad Street DIY; Sainsbury's Local (Stourbridge Rd); Morrison's for allowing us to collect in store and for food donations; National Citizenship Scheme Group who have raised a wonderful £533.50 through various fundraising events; Ladybird Inn for



use of a room; and numerous regular donors of food like Bromsgrove WI and the NHS Retirement Group. We also received £1,500 from the profits of the Timberhonger 10k run (left – race organiser Mark Graham is seen third from the left with representatives of the 3 charities that the race supports, with the Basement's CEO Jackie on the right) – and a generous cheque from Waitrose – Marina is seen receiving the cheque on the right.



## Did you know...

...that we offer a mediation service. Most of our support workers are trained in mediation and with their help we have been able to help people resolve their differences which in some cases has resulted in avoiding a homelessness situation or simply to help people start talking again to understand each other better. Call the office for more information.



## Two new Trustees (directors)

Our board of Trustees (all of whom act as Company Directors and work voluntarily for the Basement) has had 2 vacancies for a number of months but we are delighted to say that we have appointed 2 new Trustees with immediate effect (although they act as co-opted Trustees until the next AGM). The 2 are Luke Mallett (pictured left) a member of Bromsgrove's District Council and also Worcestershire County Council, and Sue Walton (right) who is an HR Manager for a growing IT logistics company in Redditch and has worked in HR for the last 30 years for national and international companies and brings skills to the board that we have not previously had. She also volunteers for the local Dogs Trust and Marie Curie so is someone committed to supporting charitable organisations. So welcome to both Luke and Sue!



## Workshops...Workshops...Workshops...

The young man on the right just goes to prove how enjoyable our **workshops** are even if you are very young and only have one sock! He, and more realistically his mother, were taking part in a Bunting making workshop. We have also held a Halloween Carving workshop – big thanks to Biff for his time and creativity in making them (see pictures left) and have a number lined up including Christmas Wreath making on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December (10.30 – 12.30) and Christmas Cake Making on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (10 - noon). All details on the website or contact Barb on 01527-832993 or 07940-854324.



The Basement Project, Hanover House, 1, Hanover Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 7JH

☎ 01527-832993



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