

## Special Edition

**Can you believe it? We have now been supporting young people in North Worcestershire for 20 years! So Happy Birthday to us.** We started as the Bromsgrove Youth Homelessness Forum in 1998 because of the lack of support in the area for young people who had been homeless or grown up in care and in 2000 registered as a charity becoming a registered company located in the Basement of the Baptist Church in 2004. In 2010 we changed our name to the North Worcestershire Basement Projects (operating as The Basement Project) to better reflect that we support people from across North Worcs and then in 2013 flooding in the Basement caused us to seek new premises in Hanover Street – and this year we have celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner and dance with staff, trustees, volunteers and supporters (pictures below)



**Top Left:** Our birthday cake, courtesy of our landlord Steve and his wife, Steph - but who is waving out of the top windows?

**Bottom Left:** Wyre Forest Nightstop

**Top Right:** Gough Bailey Wright management and staff and their colleagues

**Far Right:** Support worker Nina and partner Dan

**Right:** Support worker Amy, with colleagues Nicky & Cat that make up the Kidderminster AXIS team



We want to thank all who gave raffle prizes for the celebration including a Kings Norton Golf club package; tickets for the British Canoe Championship from Gemma Wiggs; bulbs and garden voucher from Fresh@Burcot; vouchers from Chapters, Beauty Box, Marie Martin, Broad Street DIY & Stone Manor and various prizes from staff and trustees.

**The raffle made £388. Although the dinner was not planned as a fund raising exercise we did make £373 profit on the night, which will be used to provide a celebration for our clients.**

**Make a note of the date! Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup> – our next Open Day (10 am until 2 pm) – just drop in and say "hello". All welcome!**



**Keep informed and join the fun!**

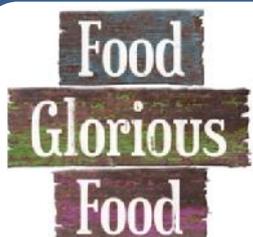




**Thank you!** As always thanks to those who have supported us recently - too many to mention everyone - but all your support is very much appreciated. Special thanks to Nick and Fran Westrop who requested people donate money to the us instead of gifts for their 50th Wedding Anniversary and raised £130; ex staff member, Sophie, who did a London Bridge trek raising £225; the Kite Flyers Association (right) plus everyone who supported the Kite Flying event and art exhibition arranged by the Jinney Ring Centre that raised £333 and Alison Mendlesohn who donated £50.



**Thanks also to Haybridge School, Hagley** who have voted The Basement as their charity of the year. Throughout the year the school will be raising funds and donating food and toiletries to us. Members of our staff team will be delivering sessions to the pupils to raise awareness of homelessness.



As in previous years we remain very grateful to the churches, schools & other organisations that collect tins of food for us at Harvest. There are, sadly, still plenty of people who need the food parcels we distribute and we couldn't offer that help without the generous donations of all who give. **So thank you.**

### Art In The Park Workshop

In August of this year we held an Art In The Park workshop created with the idea of improving the mental health of clients within a natural environment. The clients found the workshop uplifting and several lovely canvases were created which will be hung in our newly refurbished front room.

### The results are in...!

We recently asked Centrepoint to carry out a satisfaction survey of our stakeholders including county and district councils, BDHT and organisations that refer clients to us. The results were very positive with 73% rating us as 5 star excellent and 100% stating they would recommend us to other agencies and young people as a provider of quality services. Over 90% stated that staff attitude and the support given to young people was excellent and 73% also rated ease of referral as excellent. More results and some very positive comments will be on our website.



### Parent Group

Our Parent Group is held every Thursday in our Drop-In from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. There is a different activity for the parents and children to engage in each week and light refreshments are provided. Call for more details.

Sadly one of our volunteers Bridget Smith (Biddy) passed away on the 26th September 2018 following a long illness. Biddy was a very valued member of The Basement Project and the team will remember her fondly.



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