

**"We're staying put!"** - and that's good news! We moved into Hanover House in April 2013 with a non extendable 5 year lease. We've been very happy here and as we approached the end of the lease we spoke to our landlord, Steve, and discussed the possibility of a new one, which we are delighted to say he's agreed to. So we're at HH for another 5 years! Thanks Steve – we really appreciate your support.



### Fond "farewells"...

In June we said farewell to one of our longest serving employees, Carole, who was our Finance and Admin Manager. Carole has been with us for 15 years diligently supporting the board with minutes and agendas and the team as a whole with her admin and financial skills. We wish her and her husband Steve a long & happy retirement. *(Left: Carole & Steve on the bench the staff, directors and volunteers gave her as a retirement gift)*

We also said "farewell" to our shortest serving staff member, Sophie, who joined less than a year ago as our Community Liaison officer. Sophie says she has really enjoyed her work with us, especially the fund raising aspect - indeed she enjoyed it so much she has decided she really wants to do it full time, and has found a full time fund raising role that suits her in another charity - so good luck Sophie!



### ...and happy "hellos"!

Whilst we wave goodbye to Carole and Sophie we are also welcoming two new members of staff, Sarah and Sadie. Find out more about them both overleaf!

### School work!

We've recently been at North Bromsgrove School to talk about our project and also to Parkside Middle and Waseley High School to raise awareness of all types of bullying and what young people can do if they experience it, delivering sessions to about 350 pupils over 2 days. But this was not all "one way" as North Bromsgrove have raised £529.08 for us as part of The Diana Award (a living legacy to Princess Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better) by hosting a pupil verses teacher sports day and a non-uniform day.



We also received donations from pupils and parents. *(Pictured above are pupils and their teacher involved in the Diana award with their teacher, together with Basement staff).* Thanks also to South Bromsgrove High School who raised money for us on behalf of a student who passed away and also Bromsgrove School who have been busy fund raising for us and recently handed over a cheque for over £1,000 to support us *(representatives from the school are pictured left with Basement staff member, Sophie)*



### This time – a big **"thank you"** to our own volunteers!

Where would we be without volunteers? From those who help with day to day activities to those who help manage the business as Trustees - all are appreciated - and to show that appreciation, the staff recently laid on a "thank you" tea party for them. *Some of the trustees enjoy the tea party (right)*



**Meet Sadie, our new support worker...**

Hello, I'm Sadie and I've been working in 'people-helping' roles for the past decade or so. Most recently I worked with young people across the county helping them find education and employment. Starting work at The Basement Project has been a busy and exciting time and I'm enjoying working with all clients and staff - I hope to be here for a long while. In my spare time I enjoy long walks with our Cocker Spaniel, Rolo, and eating at Mexican restaurants!

**... and Sarah, our new Finance and Admin Manager**

Sarah joined in June as our new Finance & Admin Manager. She previously worked locally for Citizens Advice as a Training manager, but over her 9 years with them has also been a generalist adviser, a specialist debt caseworker within the housing unit, a financial capability officer and an advice session supervisor. She has had experience of many issues facing the community such as welfare benefits, debt, housing and employment issues, amongst others. Sarah has several academic qualifications, including a law degree.

**Thanks (again) to Bromsgrove Rotary...**

Bromsgrove Rotary have supported us on a number of occasions over the years including financially assisting with a trip for clients and their children to Weston Super Mare a couple of years ago – and they have helped again when last years District Governor, Peter Roberts, handed a donation to CEO Jackie (pictured left).

**...and to Waitrose Bromsgrove!**

Massive thanks to Manager James and his team from Waitrose who gave our Drop-In a much needed makeover by providing the paint and also decorating the room for us. Our staff were also involved in clearing and prepping rooms but special thanks to Barb and Sarah for painting the front room. All the hard work has transformed the rooms so they're brighter and more welcoming. Waitrose also gave us surplus food for our clients.



**Coming to a computer near you – soon!** One of the items that was raised during an independent revue of our work 12 months ago was the need to update and modify our website, for a variety of reasons. We have now acquired sufficient finances for this to be carried out and would hope to have the new website up and running by November.

**Happy Birthday to us...Happy birthday dear Basement...!**

Would you believe we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday this year? How time flies! We're planning a celebration evening on Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Stone Manor Hotel near Kidderminster. Tickets are £40 each and we want to invite those who have helped and supported us in the past. If you would like more information or to book seats or a table call the office on 01527-832993.



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