

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL NEWS LETTER 2019



Registered charity No 1106209

Welcome to our special Christmas Newsletter

We are issuing an extra newsletter because as we approached Christmas we had a very special visitor – and just like little children who get excited at Christmas, we are so excited that we just couldn't wait to tell our supporters about it! **No – it wasn't Father Christmas** – but His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, who visited to see some of the work we do. He spoke to staff, volunteers, ex clients, supporters and representatives from other organisations.



His Royal Highness meeting CEO Jackie, as Senior Support Worker Marina and Trustees, Ann Holmes and Jean Spencer look on.



Volunteers Ann and Janet meet HRH.

One of our ex clients who met HRH was Tristan Etheridge (*right*) who approached us for help when he was 19 as he felt that he had got in with the wrong people and his life was going off the rails. He said that the Basement was non-judgemental and gave him the support he needed with food parcels and helping him find a job. He started work as a pot washer and worked his way up to become a chef at Bromsgrove's David Lloyd fitness centre. From there he went to the Hartlebury-based Taphouse Brewery where he is now a company director having gone through the ranks of chef and kitchen manager. He commented, "Without that help my life could have taken a very different turn."



About the Basement, His Royal Highness commented: "What they do here should be greatly applauded – it's wonderful. They are providing a very valuable service to help a lot of vulnerable people." CEO Jackie said: "This royal visit has been a fantastic occasion for us – it is great that what we do here has been recognised in this way."

Keep informed and join the fun!



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Chair of the Trustees, Lindsay Peniston welcomes His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent.



During his visit HRH presented certificates to young volunteer supporters, Rose & Emily in recognition of their fundraising work (*above*)



His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent met many people who had strong links with the Basement, including representatives from partner agencies Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, Wyre Forest Nightstop and Bromsgrove District Council.
Above: HRH meets Helen Oaks (BDHT), whilst Jayne Burton (BDC) & Graeme Anderson (BDHT) wait in line to be presented to him.



HRH also met representatives from our funders, including Tamsin Davey from the National Lottery Community Fund and Helen Underwood from Lloyds Foundation.
Above: Helen Underwood from Lloyds Foundation is presented to HRH by CEO Jackie.

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