



Basement CEO Jackie announces her retirement!

Our CEO, Jackie Hooper, has announced her retirement from full time work, with effect from October 1st. Jackie, seen left with MP Sajid Javid, has been working with the organisation since its start, over 20 years ago. She acted as a Trustee for many years, and stood down at the start of 2012 to take up a temporary paid position of Project Manager replacing the previous incumbent who had left at the end of 2011, but the temporary role soon became permanent and eventually she was promoted to the CEO position. We will be recruiting her replacement during the summer. Although Jackie is retiring she says that she will keep supporting the Basement in whatever way she can in the future. No doubt we will be reading more about the life and times of our CEO but in the meantime we wish her a long and happy retirement!



Starring role for Brian at Easter

Brian, our mascot, wanted to be helpful during the Easter holidays, so he spent the whole period sitting patiently in our front window, inviting passers by to take a "selfie" with him and then post the picture on social media. He even had a selfie with another furry friend,



Bella, who couldn't quite get the idea of facing the camera with Brian, rather than trying to stare Brian out (*or is Bella in love?*)!

In every Newsletter we say **THANK YOU** to all the individuals and organisations that have made donations to us which help us to help those young people in the area who need our assistance. Whether those donations are in the form of food, toiletries or money, we couldn't do what we do without you. So a heartfelt "Thanks". We try and mention as many as we can but inevitably some get missed, but this time we say our thanks to Bromsgrove School; Sainsbury's local; Motorhome depot; The Provincial Grand Lodge; South Bromsgrove High School and Luke Mallett our local councillor. We also received donations in memory of Donnah Morgan, who used to be a volunteer with us, and also Betty Beckett, a long time supporter from Catshill Methodist Church.



We're always pleased to receive feedback from clients like these two recent ones:
"I got the job, I'm so happy. I wouldn't be the person I am today without your support. Thank you for all your help with my interview skills, I went in there feeling confident"
"Thank you so much I won't forget the help you've given me even during lockdown" ✓



Keep informed and join the fun!



The Great Bromsgrove Carpet Picnic!

What do you do when it's too cold to picnic outside? Answer: You have a "carpet picnic" of course! In February and April, in partnership with our District Council and Newstarts, we provided picnic bags for about 30 young people and families so they could enjoy a carpet picnic.

(Pictured left: Sadie with some of the picnic bags and right: Brian enjoying his!)



International Women's Day

March 8th is "International Women's Day" when there is a call to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women whilst also calling for equality. This year's theme was **#ChooseToChallenge** with a call to choose an inequality or unfairness to challenge. Many of our young female clients have faced personal challenges of their own and work hard to overcome them, so we celebrated their achievements on 8th March by providing them with a pamper pack each *(right)*, and posting our support on social media.

**Easter Eggs and an Easter Hamper**

We're always delighted and grateful to receive Easter Eggs for our clients – especially those with young children – and this year we received a huge donation of 178 Eggs from Claire, Amy, Ashley & staff at LHDP SmileCare *(Claire is pictured left, with her children)* We also received a further 160 through Gladys from Lickey End Methodist Church, who collected

them from friends and neighbours. This allowed us to join with Bromsgrove District Council, Newstarts and Support Bromsgrove in a massive effort to provide an Easter Egg for every child in the area. We were also fortunate enough to be given a large Easter Hamper by ASDA in Bromsgrove *(right)* which we will use as a prize in the next few weeks. Many thanks to all concerned.



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

☎ 01527-832993