

# HEADWAY HULL + EAST RIDING

[www.headwayhero.org.uk](http://www.headwayhero.org.uk)



the brain injury association  
Registered Charity Number: 1025852

## August 2010

Liam won more than his fair share of sweets in the horse racing betting game – hope he had a lottery ticket too – talk about lucky! Kay was pretty clued up on the picture quiz and Lesley managed to win the general knowledge. Thanks to Sarah for setting the quizzes.

Sarah and Andy managed to get the Wii working for the July meeting and it certainly brought out the competitive streaks. It was such good fun we thought we might include it at the December meeting. Lesley can borrow a Wii game of Beatles songs with microphone, drums and two guitars so we can try this as well as the sports.

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### DIARY

#### No meeting in August

#### **Tuesday 14 September 7.00 – 9.00pm – Centre 88 Saner Street, off Anlaby Road, Hull**

Our neuropsychologist, Selen Selvachandran will accompany her assistant who will give a presentation to us. The last presentation Selen and Catherine Derbyshire gave was brilliant, not only discussing problems but also suggesting ways to eliminate them, or at least to lessen their impact. We will also have time to enjoy our usual cup of tea over a bun and a chat together.

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#### News from Headway UK:

**The annual Headway Raffle** has been launched early this year. It won't be drawn until 20<sup>th</sup> December so we will have a longer period in which to see tickets. Tickets are £1 each, or £5 for a book.

This year the prizes are

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 L SXi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> A week's holiday for four people in a wheelchair-accessible apartment on the Brittany Coast
- 3<sup>rd</sup> An Apple iPod

Please help us to sell tickets. 50% of Hull + East Riding's sales will be returned to us for our funds.

**The Induction Day for the start of the first module of the Certificate of Brain Injury Studies will take place on the 9 September at the University of Northampton, Park Campus.**

**We are delighted that all the work put in by Steve Shears, Training Officer for Headway, has come to fruition and this course is now a reality. We can only hope that this will become a necessary qualification for ESA assessors – see the next item ....**

P.T.O.

Lesley: 01430 430720  
Alison: 01904 621631

(M) 07538319716

email: [headwayhull@talktalk.net](mailto:headwayhull@talktalk.net)

**DWP Assessment for Work** – According to one report in the Independent nearly 4 out of ten (39 per cent) of the 686,500 applicants for Employment and Support Allowance (EAS) have been judged able to work since the replacement for Incapacity Benefit was introduced in October 2008. A further 37 per cent stopped their claims before their assessments had been completed. A number of agencies have criticised the new system, claiming it can force those who are unfit for work into employment. With the effects of brain injury often being hidden, Headway service users may be at risk of having their benefits unfairly stopped and being forced into jobs they are not ready for.

To assess the situation on the ground, Headway is asking all Groups and Branches for our views in order to accurately assess whether or not the new ESA rules are having a negative impact on our members.

- Have you been reassessed by the ESA scheme and told you are fit to work?
- Are any of you going through the appeal process? (Don't forget we will help if we can)

Any information you supply will remain confidential.

By building up a body of evidence using real-life examples and utilising expert opinion, Headway can look to lobby the DWP to call for more training for ESA assessors to better understand the hidden symptoms of brain injury while also strongly suggesting the scheme utilises specialist opinion when assessing people.

So many of you have expressed your frustration and disappointment at the lack of understanding exhibited by the many professionals you encounter when trying to access help after your brain injuries. Please contact Lesley or Alison as soon as possible if you have views to share.

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Research questionnaire ....

Hannah Blair, Department of Psychology, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4AL has requested your help. She is engaged in a piece of research and is keen to learn about the experiences of anyone aged between 18 and 65, who sustained a head injury as an adult. The study looks at how quality of life has changed since the head injury and aims to investigate who people report changes in their quality of life after injury. A copy of the questionnaire can be obtained from Hannah by telephone on 01786 466365 or can be downloaded from <http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/stirling/tbi>

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**Hull LINK is working with East Riding LINK, Carers' Centre Hull and North Bank Forum** to look at how the introduction of Individual Budgets for care services is working for service users and family carers.

They want to find out about service users and family carers:

- Understanding of individual budgets
- Experiences of applying for individual budgets
- Experiences of using individual budgets

They want to hear about good experiences as well as bad. There are two surveys:

If you have experience of using personalisation use the **Personalisation User Survey**  
If you haven't used personalisation use the **Personalisation Non User Survey**

Both versions can be downloaded from [www.hull-link.org.uk](http://www.hull-link.org.uk)

**It's good to know that our local health and social care watchdogs are looking at this subject as well as Headway UK.**