

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AGM - MARCH 2011

During 2010 people have made contact via our dedicated mobile phone and email. They have found us through the Headway UK website, the link to our local website (set up by member Andy Kemp), our leaflets and having been referred by professionals. There has been a mix of professionals and families seeking information and support services.

Our Member's Committee have continued to find interesting speakers and events for our monthly meetings. We have enjoyed chocolate tasting, quizzes, Wii games and ten pin bowling. Special thanks to Ann and Dave Burdall for organising the social/ fund raising evening at The Belmont Club, Lorraine and Carole for demonstrating how to make Christmas baubles, Sarah for her hand made jewellery and Debbie for introducing us to young hedgehogs and telling us all about their lives. Sandra Borg's presentation on Assessing Capacity was very informative.

The weather prevented our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in December and also delayed the talk to psychology students at Hull & York Medical School.

Future events include the joint presentation by Selen Selvachandran and Catherine Derbyshire on challenging behaviour following brain injury at our April meeting. Carole has also agreed to come and demonstrate card making.

**Headway UK.** The annual Action for Brain Injury Week focused on encouraging A&E Departments to provide patients with the Headway Fact Sheet detailing danger signs that require a head injury patient to immediately return to hospital.

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the annual Headway raffle. We managed to sell around £200 worth so will received £100 for our funds. The other £100 goes to head office to help fund all the useful work carried out by a relatively small staff engaged in the production of booklets, Fact Sheets, the quarterly magazine, publicity, sponsored events, manning the helpline etc. The helpline is now nurse led and able to offer clinical support.

In partnership with the University of Northampton, Steve Shears, Training Manager for Headway, has launched The Certificate in Brain Injury Studies.

Headway was founded by volunteers and continues to operate with the minimum number of paid staff and the input from an army of volunteers such as ourselves.

The quarterly magazine is available to read or download on the Headway website.

Incidentally, for any of you who watch Dancing on Ice, L/Cpl. Johnson Beharry VC is an ambassador for Headway.

The annual conference weekend took place in July at the University of Warwick but unfortunately we were not able to attend this year. We are seeking a grant to provide finance for some members to attend the 2011 Way Ahead.

Thanks to Alison, our Treasurer, for continuing to keep our finances in order and to Lesley, our Secretary, for maintaining our records, writing and circulating the monthly newsletter and acting as the first point of contact for enquiries.

We welcome any suggestions from members for future events, speakers and fund raising.