



# ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY TRUST

(charity number 1159543)



## ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017



**Acquired Brain Injury Centre,**  
Evesham College, Davies Road. Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 1LP

**Website:** [www.acquiredbraininjurytrust.org](http://www.acquiredbraininjurytrust.org)

**Email:** [office@acquiredbraininjurytrust.org](mailto:office@acquiredbraininjurytrust.org)



## **ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY TRUST** (charity number 1159543)

### **OBJECTS**

---

The objects of the Acquired Brain Injury Trust are to support the re-education, rehabilitation and improvement of quality of life of people in Worcestershire and adjoining counties who have suffered an acquired brain injury due to accident, stroke or otherwise, and as a result have experienced loss of communication, cognitive and/or motor skills as well as personal confidence.

### **FACTS ABOUT BRAIN INJURY**

---

At any one time about 1,000,000 people in the UK are living with the results of a head injury. The effects may be devastating, affecting not only the injured person, but also family, friends and work colleagues. The problems that arise do not always depend on the severity of the injury. People with an apparently minor injury may experience difficulties with memory, concentration, communication, problem solving, mood and personality changes, as well as fatigue and intolerance to their environment. People with more severe injuries may in addition experience complex physical and sensory difficulties. Stroke can have similar effects – about 100,000 people each year will experience their first stroke, of whom 10,000 are under the age of 55.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

---

The Acquired Brain Injury Trust is based at the Acquired Brain Injury Centre, which was built with a lottery grant in the grounds of Evesham College and is owned by the Trustees. Currently seventy students living with the consequences of an acquired brain injury (ABI) attend the Centre, taught by College staff, but with their own coordinator.

During the past year the Trustees have continued to focus principally on providing bursaries for those students who would have difficulty in meeting the cost of course fees – during the year the Trustees gave a total of 78 bursaries to a value of more than £12,600. Fifty seven students were awarded bursaries, some of them on several different courses. These courses ranged from Communication, “Brain Gym” and Music Appreciation to Cookery, Gardening, Woodwork and a number of different Art classes. The Trustees have an agreed policy for the granting of bursaries.

The Trust has recently provided nine new computers for the IT room, replacing those that had been in constant use for many years, together with two large TV screens, one in the Art Room and one in the IT room – these will be a valuable teaching resource.

The merger of South Worcestershire College (now renamed Evesham College) with the Warwickshire Group of Colleges was a major preoccupation during the course of the year, and Trustees held a number of meetings with staff of both colleges to ensure that the interests of the Trust and the ABI students were fully considered and respected. The Trustees were reassured by the positive approach from college personnel and will continue to have regular meetings and communication.

The Trust’s new website ([www.acquiredbraininjurytrust.org](http://www.acquiredbraininjurytrust.org)) became fully operational during the autumn of 2016 and is being well used.



*I enjoy coming to the ABI Centre to meet and socialise with friends as well as attend very helpful lessons which improve my independence at home.*

**CL**

*When I first joined the ABI Centre I came for a taster and I have never stopped coming since. As far as I am concerned the lessons have filled important voids for me and having worked building on roads, this long road of recovery has been supported by the ABI centre.*

**MM**

*I find the ABI centre is a good learning experience, I enjoy classes of gardening, cookery, brain gym and IT.*

**TM**



*The quality and help of staff really creates a wonderful learning environment. I have been fortunate to rebuild and sustain my concentration through working in Art, Drawing & Mixed Media. This has really helped with my rehabilitation as I am now able to have a conversation and when I left hospital I was unable to talk and now I get told I talk too much.*

PW

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

---

Students are to be congratulated on winning a Silver Gilt in the Evesham Town Council's School Gardening Awards – gardening is a popular and successful course, which is generously sponsored by the John Martin Charity.

A well-attended Open Day was held in June 2016, and the ABI Centre also received a visit from local MP Nigel Huddleston, who was met by the Trust Chairman, Mr. Michael Gage, and was shown around the Centre by staff and students.

Over four days at the end of March 2017, students held an exhibition of their art work, which attracted considerable attention. The standard of work was extremely high, with some of it really outstanding (see examples from the exhibition among the photographs in this Review). There were many congratulatory comments from those attending, including a letter in the Evesham Journal.

## FUNDRAISING

---

A successful year of fund raising has enabled the Trust to provide support to students whose financial circumstances are such that funding themselves on college courses at the Centre is difficult.

We are grateful to a number of charitable organisations which have enabled us to support students from our bursary fund throughout the year - the Harford Charitable Trust, the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, the Oakley Charitable Trust, the Vassilou Trusts, the Truemark Trust, the Saintbury Trust the LJC Fund and the Arden Trust. A generous donation to be paid over three years has been donated by the Sobell Foundation. The John Martin Charity has awarded a generous grant to provide support for our students in their efforts to maintain our gardens.

Other contributions to our funds have been received from local supporters - the Rotary Club of Evesham Tree of Light Fund, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire, The Evesham Masonic Trust, the Lygonian Singers and Evesham Golf Club.

Local County Councillors have also contributed generously to our funds. In addition we have received personal donations for which the Trust is most grateful. It was a pleasure to receive a visit to the ABI Centre from a representative of a charitable trust which has supported us over the years. We always welcome visitors who are interested in our work and who would like to see the Centre in operation and meet staff, students and trustees.





*2017 represents a milestone year in terms of my rehab journey.*

*This year will mark four+ years since joining the ABI College. Without hesitation, I can say that the college alongside the wonderful support staff and tutors, provides a life-saving service, which not only develops new skills but also offers a creative, inspiring space, that continues to encourage incremental improvements after brain injury. Aged 41, I experienced a life-changing brain injury. But with an evolving mind set and enjoyable college experience, the classes I've attended and new friends made, I feel confident to say, I'm happy that I can look forward to the future with ABI's help.*

*Beyond the academic/ lifestyle courses, this facility has supported another development: Contentment Reacquired.*

*While there have been a few changes, my chosen electives: brain gym and a variety of art courses continue to challenge my brain, I hope gently improving my cognitive and creative abilities and bolstering my contentment.*

**JE**

## FUTURE PLANS

Students currently attend the ABI Centre on only three days of the week, and there is clearly scope for more activities to take place there. A number of ideas are currently under discussion between Trustees and college staff for an increased use of the Centre during the coming year.

The Trustees are encouraged by the positive and supportive attitude of Evesham College staff towards the work of the ABI Centre and the role of the Trust.



*It suits all of our needs and long may it continue.*

**LO**

*My favourite lesson is art ad it helps me express myself. My cookery class helps me to achieve independence at home.*

**RC**



*A life-threatening tumour removed in 1993 has left me with Hydrocephalus ('water on the brain'). After struggling on my own for 6 years I heard about the ABI Centre and I have attended since last September 1999. In more recent years, the support offered has also enabled me to meet other students and learn of their road to recovery.*

*Because my disability is mostly 'unseen' I receive lower support and without the generous bursaries offered by the ABI Trust I could not afford to attend and enjoy the wide range of courses on offer at the ABI centre.*

CH



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

---

We have continued our support for students who suffer from an acquired brain injury, through our bursary fund, thanks to the generous donations we receive, which have increased by 13.5% this year. This year we were able to extend our support beyond course fees and gardening courses, to include a substantial investment in computer equipment totalling £5,744 enabling the centre to offer a state of the art computer training facility. This is all thanks to the generous support of donors upon which we rely totally. Donors should remember that if they are tax payers the Trust can benefit from an additional 25% if they complete a Gift Aid form. These forms are available from the ABI Centre and should be returned there, addressed to Paul Taylor as Hon Treasurer to the Trust.

Donations	
2017	£33,675
2016	£29,660
Increase	£4,015
	13.5%

Overall revenue has also risen:

Total Revenue	
2017	£33,093
2016	£30,515
Increase	£3,388
	11%

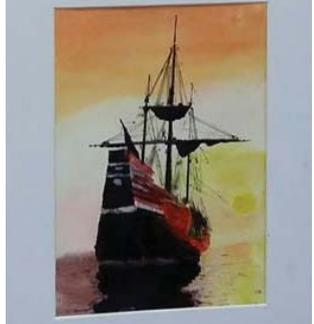
We continue to operate on a “low cost” base with administration expenses under £350 a year thanks to the continued support of volunteers.

**Paul Taylor** FFA FFTA FPFS Chartered MCS1, Hon Treasurer

## TRUSTEES

---

Mr. Michael Gage	Chairman
Mr. Peter Gordon	
Lady Carolyn Harford	
Mrs. Lesley Kewley	
Mrs. Barbara McLaren	
Mr Richard Sharples	<i>(resigned October 2016)</i>
Mr Paul Taylor	Hon Treasurer



*It really would not have been possible for me to attend the ABI centre if it was not from the financial support from the Acquired Brain Injury Trust who provide me with the opportunity to attend Brain Gym.*

**BL**

Something I don't remember  
Has done something I can't see  
And made me someone I don't know

**Mel Ashwin**

