



# ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY TRUST

( number 1159543 )



# ANNUAL REVIEW

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018



**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 ANNUAL REVIEW 2017/2018**  
**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, usually caused by an accident, stroke or tumour. The effects can 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 also experience complex physical and sensory difficulties. Stroke can have similar after-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 in 1998 with a lottery grant in the grounds of Evesham College and is owned by the Trustees. Students living with the consequences of an acquired brain injury (ABI) are enrolled with Evesham College and are taught by College staff, but with their own coordinator in the ABI Centre.

For the third consecutive year, the Trustees have focussed on providing bursaries for those students who would have difficulty in meeting the fees that are now charged for most college courses. The Trust funded the fees for students on a total of 81 courses, many students being enrolled on two courses each week. The courses ranged from “Brain Gym”, Communication and IT to Art, Cookery, and Sport.

The Trustees supported a new course in Photography by supplying equipment to a value of nearly £2,500 (some of the students’ work appears in this Review). They also purchased a piano for the ABI Centre to encourage music amongst the students, and supplied materials for the redecoration of one of the Centre’s rooms. Trustees are quite often invited to speak at meetings of Rotary and other organisations, which helps to raise the profile of the ABI Centre and the Trust.

A number of meetings took place during the year between Trustees and senior staff of Evesham College, to ensure good liaison for the benefit of ABI students and plan for the future. Not least, the College can provide a “shopping list” of equipment needed for the ABI Centre, which is then funded by the Trust.

One Trustee retired during the course of the year, and three new Trustees were appointed, one of whom was a past student of the ABI Centre and now a volunteer.



*Gets you out of the house, when you think you have lost everything after a stroke. You feel like you still have something to give coming to the ABI Centre and it teaches you skills you didn't know you had.*

*It's given me confidence again. It feels like a family, around people who have the same difficulties. Friday is my happiest day. I've made lots of friends and I love doing woodwork.*

**Sarah**



*I've been a student attending the ABI Centre for a long while. I've really enjoyed taking part in each of the classes that I've attended, Art, IT, All Our Yesterdays, Not so Trivial Pursuits and Creative Writing, learning new skills and gaining greater expertise and understanding. I've gained an enormous amount from all of these classes and experiences. I'm really grateful that I was able to join. Massive thanks to all concerned, you really are appreciated!*

**Tony**

## **EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR**

---

A successful Open Day was held on 22 June 2017 at which the Mayor and Mayoress of Evesham unveiled the new sign for the ABI Centre at the Cheltenham Road entrance. They then spent considerable time talking with students, staff and guests. This event was also attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen captains of Evesham Golf Club, both of whom had generously nominated the Trust as their charity for the year.

An article in the December 2018 edition of the Vale magazine helped to raise awareness among the wider community of the activities taking place at the ABI Centre.

In February 2018 ABI students said farewell to their popular coordinator and expected the appointment of a successor in time for the summer term.

## FUTURE PLANS

---

The immediate priority for Trustees is to negotiate with Evesham College a renewal of the 20 year lease granted by the College when the ABI Centre was built in 1998. Despite many changes and occasional challenges, the relationship between Trustees and College has been amicable and productive, and the ABI Centre is widely recognised as a unique provision for students with an acquired brain injury.

There is still scope for increased use of the ABI Centre and regular meetings between the Trustees and staff of Evesham College will explore the possibilities. This could include reinstating provision for 16-25 year olds, which was a feature of the service some years ago.

*I became a student at the ABI Centre after having a stroke. My stroke left me partially sighted along with other problems and irritations often associated with stroke.*

*At the ABI Centre I concentrate on Art, something I would never have considered before my stroke, and I love it!*

*The tutor, helpers and other students are very encouraging and I have produced some work I am quite proud of.*

*The ABI Centre has equally contributed to my social welfare, providing somewhere I can meet and empathize with like minded people who understand what's going on. Having a stroke is like joining a secret club; you don't know what it's like until you've had one. Attending the ABI Centre has restored my sense of purpose in life.*

**Jackie**





## FUNDRAISING

---

Fundraising efforts have been focused on our Bursary Fund which enables the Trust to support ABI students with College fees and transport costs. In addition we were able to secure funding to maintain our garden and to provide items of equipment for use in the Centre.

We are fortunate to have many local supporters who have given generously to our funds. Evesham Golf Club men's and ladies captains raised funds throughout the year and members contributed generously. Evesham Rotarians gave generously from their Tree of Light fund, as did local Masonic Lodges. The Lygonian singers again raised funds by carol singing over the Christmas period. Donations were also welcomed from the Wickamford Art Group and the Childswickam Christmas Charity Bingo. County Councillor John Smith continues to be a loyal supporter and we received

donations from Mr and Mrs T Preece and Mr and Mrs J Aiken and C.M.Dyer. In addition the local Co-operative donated from their Community Fund.

We are grateful to a number of charitable trusts and foundations which have contributed to our funds – the Alison Hillman Charitable Trust, the Eveson Trust, the Harford Charitable Trust, the Sobell Foundation, the PF Charitable Trust, the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, the Vassilou Trusts, the Oakley Trust, the Bransford Trust, the Ann and John Walters Charitable Trust. This year we were fortunate to benefit from a handsome donation from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The Trustees are extremely grateful to all those who are loyal supporters in our efforts to provide help for students who have sustained a brain injury.



*Friday morning is the best morning because I get to do woodwork. It's the best thing ever!*

**Simon**

*Gardening provides me with enjoyment and I enjoy the feel of plants and compost.*

**Cliff**

*I find gardening helpful, I feel relaxed and I also learn new skills.*

**Tammy**





*I have MS and only attend an Art class for two hours per week. This has enabled me to paint at home and I have developed through the instruction received.*

*The work produced by disabled people is an inspiration to everyone. I have also noticed the sound activities and the friendliness offered by staff. It is a unit to be proud of, especially the Art Exhibition.*

*My only problem is the lack of knowledge of this wonderful aid in Evesham. It should be open five days a week and advertised as there is a national shortage of help available to stroke victims especially Evesham is leading the way as the unit at the Hospital is also outstanding.*

**Jenny**

*The ABI Centre has been instrumental in providing hope and stability, during an unnerving rehab journey, which began six years ago: whether discovering new talents in college or reacquiring old ones. The ABI Centre is a magical place where staff deliver a broad range of courses with compassion and enthusiasm, not necessarily synonymous with the classroom.*

*But here I've forged strong friendships; managed expectations and shared disappointments and experiences, in a creative atmosphere and much needed source of sustainable happiness and healing, that in turn builds myself worth under pillars of competence; qualities essential to my rehabilitation.*

**Jon**

*I continue to enjoy my gardening classes and use my skills to enjoy my garden at home. I'm very grateful for my time at gardening class.*

**Mike**

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

---

We have continued our support for students who suffer from acquired brain injury, through our bursary fund thanks to the generous donations we receive, which have increased by 46% this year. This year we extended our support beyond course fees and gardening courses, to include an investment in photographic equipment enabling the centre to offer photography and a piano, for the development of music.

This is all **thanks to the continued and generous support of donors** upon which we rely totally. Donors should remember that if they are income 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	
2018	£49,313
2017	£33,675
Increase	£15,638 46%

Overall revenue has also risen:

Total Revenue	
2018	£50,026
2017	£33,093
Increase	£16,933 47%

We continue to operate on a **'low cost'** base with administration expenses under **£150 this year** thanks to the continued support of volunteers.

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

## TRUSTEES

---

Mr. Michael Gage	Chairman
Mrs. Jacqueline Bennett	appointed October 2017
Mr. Paul Bennett	appointed October 2017
Mr. Peter Gordon	retired October 2017
Lady Carolyn Harford	
Mr. Clifford How	appointed October 2017
Mrs. Lesley Kewley	
Mrs. Barbara McLaren	
Mr. Paul Taylor	Hon. Treasurer



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

**Mel Ashwin**

