

**W**elcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Basement newsletter aimed at keeping you up to date with the project. For more information call 01527-832993 or visit [www.bromsgrovebasementproject.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrovebasementproject.org.uk)

### Jackie is Diwali Guest of Honour

At the end of October our Operations Manager Jackie Hooper (extreme left in the picture) was one of the guests of honour at the Diwali celebrations in Bromsgrove. Commenting, Jackie said, "It was a great honour to be asked to be guest of honour and participate in the celebrations. The Indian community in Bromsgrove and particularly the Chaudhari family are very supportive of the Basement Project and regularly provide cooked hot food for staff and clients."



### Thanks ASDA – and your shoppers!

Once again ASDA have come up trumps allowing us to collect food outside their store in the town. And once again the ASDA shoppers have responded to our pleas for tins and packets marvellously. We ended up with 30 crates jam packed with food that will be used to help create Christmas Hampers for young homeless people in our area.

*Clients Marcus and Matt who "worked their socks off" for an hour and a half in the cold November air alongside Drop In Team Leader Lance Crabb.*



### What a record for our Outreach team!

Our Outreach team work alongside up to 30-35 young people at any moment in time. The role of support workers like Marina (pictured) is to help young people resolve or overcome problems they might have which may be drug, alcohol, abuse, debt, budgeting or relationship related. These need to be addressed before a client has any hope of gaining a tenancy. The support workers also help young people understand their rights and their responsibilities and assist in securing a tenancy. Once established in their tenancy the support worker will maintain regular contact to ensure the tenancy doesn't fail and the client has a chance to build on their new start. Losing a tenancy can set someone back and even lead to a period of homelessness and sleeping rough. Looking back we realised that the last time we had a failed tenancy was nearly 5 years ago – and even that was due to a technicality. Many clients admit that, without the support of the outreach team, they would not be in the strong position they are in today and would undoubtedly have had more problems – so well done to all those involved – it's a record to be proud of and one that is helping to prevent homelessness in this area.



### It's a BOY!

Congratulations to outreach worker, Nina, who gave birth to a healthy son, Henry, on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Both are doing well.



### December Workshops & Events:

12<sup>th</sup> Christmas and table decorations  
20<sup>th</sup> Christmas meal for clients at Star Light Cafe (places need to be pre booked)

Call the Drop In for more info!





## Basepoint offers £5,000 matched funding!

Basepoint Business Centre, part of the Bromsgrove Enterprise Park, have kindly offered to match fund anything the Basement can raise through fund raising events, before March 31st up to a maximum of £5,000. This is not the first time they have supported us and we continue to be very grateful to them. Can YOU run a small event for our funds? Whatever you raise will be worth **double** after Basepoint have added their matched funding. If you want to hold an event please contact the Basement on 01527-832993. **Thanks Basepoint!**



## A NEW Drop in service at NEW College

We have started a Drop In service at NEW College campuses in Bromsgrove & Redditch on alternate weeks. We will be at the Bromsgrove campus on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & January 15<sup>th</sup> and in Redditch December 11<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

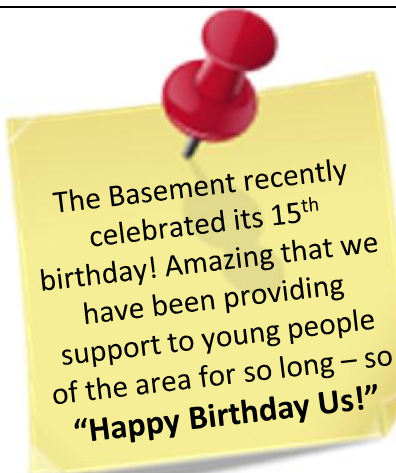
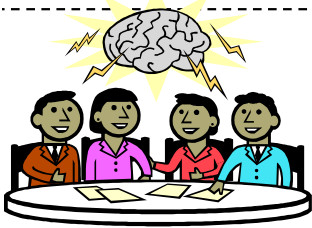
## Yet another new Trustee!

It might appear that we just keep appointing new trustees as we have just appointed our third one in as many months! In reality we have had several vacancies and we have been trying to generally strengthen the board with people who have skills that we are generally short of. The latest recruit is Bob Martin, who brings practical skills that will be very useful with a historic building to look after. He also has leadership skills from his days working with the scouts.

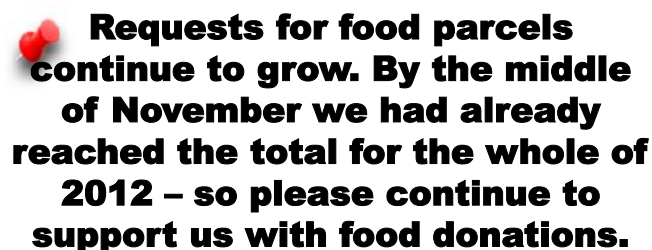


## The Basement joins a Consortium

The Basement Project has been working with a potential new Consortium in the county. This follows the suggestion by Worcestershire County Council that they prefer to work with one or two larger service providers than several smaller ones. There is no guarantee that they will continue to support young homeless people as they need to save a large amount of money over the next 3 years. However if they don't then we may see more young people sleeping rough around the town and in the outlying areas like Catshill, Sidemoor and Charford. Let's hope they recognise the need for continued support for our young people.



The Basement recently celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday! Amazing that we have been providing support to young people of the area for so long – so "Happy Birthday Us!"



**Requests for food parcels continue to grow. By the middle of November we had already reached the total for the whole of 2012 – so please continue to support us with food donations.**

*Thank you.*



We need volunteers as much as financial supporters. Have YOU thought of volunteering? Find out more from our website or call us on 01527-832993

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