



Headstart



the brain injury association



FEBRUARY 2015



Well it's the month of love and Headway Sefton volunteers have been sharing love and care throughout the Sefton area.

Fundraising to kick-start the year!

Burns Night

Over 150 people met at Formby Gild Hall on Friday 30th January to enjoy Burns Night. Wearing a piece of tartan was a must! After a generous Haggis dinner, Robert Burns poetry was enjoyed by all followed by traditional ceilidh dancing.

The evening was organised by Headway Sefton committee member and Neurosurgeon Consultant, Catherine Harris, and the communication team at The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.



Thanks to the team for a very enjoyable and successful fundraising event. Watch out for this annual event!!

Curry lunch at Slater & Gordon

On Wednesday 4th February 2015, Slater and Gordon Lawyers hosted curry lunch. Carol Hopwood, Joanne Gates, Hannah Nicholas, Mathew Thomas and Nina Sahu provided the Liverpool office with a delicious array of curry's and rice. From the warmth of a Vindaloo to a more traditional chicken curry and even vegetarian chickpea, there really was something for everybody to enjoy. Who knew that such regarded legal professionals were also Gordon's and Delia's in the kitchen, is there no end to their talent?!

In addition the staff requested that proceeds from the last three months of dress down day were contributed to support Headway Sefton. Combining the success of curry lunch with the dress down day contributions, Slater and Gordon Lawyers are extremely pleased to have raised a total of **£123.29** in support of Headway Sefton.

Cake Sale at Merchant Taylors

Anna Hopwood and Rose Kemp, 2 of Headway Sefton's volunteers, cooked a range of yummy cakes and sold them in their school. They raised a healthy **£85**. Well done!!



First Drop-In Session at Sefton Carers

In January, Headway Sefton moved their monthly drop-in sessions to the Sefton Carers building on South Road in Waterloo.

Partnering with an established and recognised support service in the Sefton area will surely add value to all those affected by brain injury. Check out Sefton Carers timetable of activities.



27-37 S Rd, Waterloo.L22 5RF
0151 288 6060
www.sefton-carers.org.uk



Tommy & Michelle on BBC Radio 5 Live



Sefton-based Michelle Kelly, partner of Tommy Hankin was involved in Radio 5 Live discussion about the Walton Centre on 3rd Feb.

Phil Williams presented a special programme from the Walton Centre in Liverpool - dedicated to providing comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation for those who suffer brain injuries. The programme lasted over 2 hours and Michelle discussed how the centre and Headway have helped in Tommy's rehabilitation process following a fall in 2012 which lead to his brain injury. Well done Michelle. Keep up the good work!

Visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/player/b050xdzy>

sponsored by



Headstart

Legal Matters

Could you claim for personal injury? Should you?

Committee member and leading Barrister Amanda Yip QC discusses personal injury claims; why you need to consider compensation, if you have a claim and where to go.

We read a lot in the press about the so-called compensation culture. Sadly, this sometimes deters deserving people from making claims for personal injury. When life-changing injuries are involved, good legal advice at an early stage can make all the difference.

To read more, ask a committee member for a copy of Amanda's article.

Events

Headway Drop –in Sessions

– 2nd Wednesday of each month at Sefton Carers Centre. 1pm – 3pm

Tea & Coffee Mornings

– Sefton Carers Centre; every Monday and Wednesday.

10.30am – 12.30pm

– Neurosupport ; Waterloo Community Centre, first Monday of every month. Living Well Centre, Southport on first Wednesday of every month.

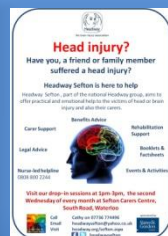
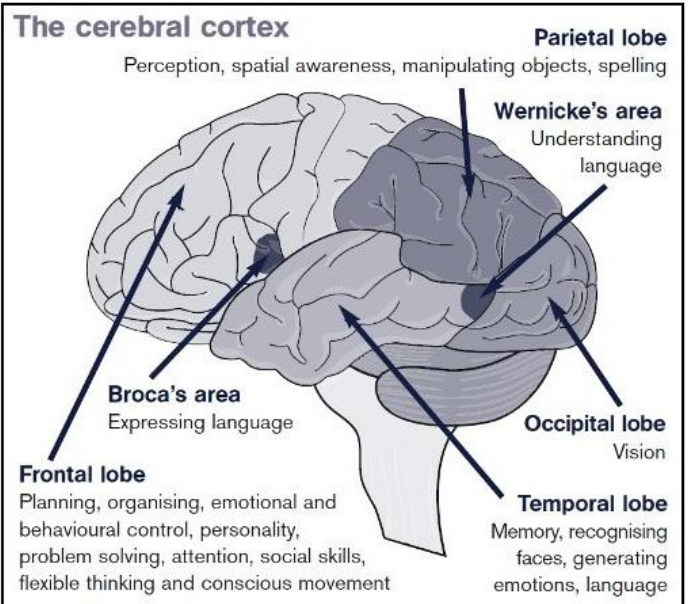
Both 10.30am –12.30pm.

Support Groups

– Neurosupport; Brain Haemorrhage (7-9pm 17th March)

Brain facts

- Your brain weighs about 3lbs, or just under 1.5Kg
- It has the texture of blancmange
- Your brain is connected to your spinal cord by the brain stem
- Behind your brain stem is the cerebellum
- The cerebral cortex is the largest part of your brain. It contains the frontal lobes, the motor cortex, sensory cortex and parietal lobes
- The brain is made up of around 100 billion nerve cells and even more support cells, which provide nourishment to the nerve cells



Spread the News!!

Headway Sefton have started to distribute posters around the Sefton area to advise of the monthly drop-in sessions and the signposting facility that we offer. If you can help improving this awareness, please ask a committee member for some posters.



Call: Cathy on 07736 774496
Email: headwaysefton@yahoo.co.uk
Visit: headway.org/sefton.aspx



Norton Street, Liverpool, L3 8LR
0151 298 2999
<http://www.neurosupport.org.uk>



27-37 S Rd, Waterloo.L22 5RF
0151 288 6060
www.sefton-carers.org.uk/



the brain injury association

Could you claim for personal injury? Should you?

Amanda Yip QC

We read a lot in the press about the so-called compensation culture. Sadly, this sometimes deters deserving people from making claims for personal injury. Personally, I think there are instances where people are too quick to look for blame and to claim for very minor injuries. It is different when life-changing injuries are involved though. In my work as a barrister I never cease to be amazed by the resilience of people who have been badly injured and their families. Relatives rise to the challenge and rally round the patient with love and devotion. Often the last thing anyone is thinking of is making a compensation claim. However, if an accident has caused a brain injury it is always worth considering whether there may be scope to make a claim. Good legal advice at an early stage can make all the difference.

What is the point of a personal injury claim?

No amount of money can undo a brain injury. What compensation can do is provide for things that will make a real difference to quality of life. When mobility is affected, specially adapted accommodation and wheelchairs may be required. Professional help can sometimes relieve pressure on families and financial worries can be eased with claims for loss of earnings and the like.

But is it fair?

Although I have been dealing with personal injury claims for many years, I still find myself questioning whether it is right that those who can establish fault on another party may be in a better position than others with equally serious injuries resulting from simple misfortune. My answer is that we can only work within the system we have. I would love to see greatly improved services for all disabled people but I recognise the limitations in these times of austerity. If some people are able to access privately funded services paid for by insurers (who have taken premiums to insure the risk) that may leave more to go round for others. It might not seem fair that one injured person is better off than another but in truth there is nothing fair about brain injury and I believe that any individual is entitled to make use of all the resources open to them.

Might I have a claim?

People sometimes dismiss the idea of bringing a claim without first seeking legal advice. When accidents occur on the road, legal liability is often not black and white. Even if the injured person is largely to blame, an apportionment of responsibility might be made giving access to some damages. If an accident happens at work it can seem wrong to sue an employer but insurance is usually in place and it is the insurers who will handle the claim. Usually claims must be brought within three years of an accident but later claims can be allowed, particularly where there has been a serious brain injury. It is always worth speaking to an experienced solicitor before dismissing the idea of bringing a claim.

Where do I go?

It is really important to go to a solicitor who has experience of brain injury claims. Fortunately, Headway can help as they maintain a list of appropriate solicitors. If you look at the website www.headway.org.uk you will find a "Legal Advice" section which provides guidance on what to look for when choosing a solicitor. At Headway Sefton we can point you towards a number of local firms on the Headway list to help you make an informed choice of who to go to. Even if it turns out you don't have a good claim, you may find that a chat with a solicitor from the Headway list will be useful in pointing you towards other sources of help, such as benefits advice and the like.