

New Charity Shop Opens in Poynton

DATE: Thursday 2 October at 10am

LOCATION: Headway Charity Shop, 19 Park Lane, Poynton

Michael Harnor, a local brain injury survivor, will officially open a new charity shop in the town centre of Poynton on Thursday 2 October.

The new shop, on Park Lane, will be run by Headway, a national charity that works to improve life after brain injury.

In 1980, Michael suffered a brain haemorrhage that left him with a severe brain injury. He spent more than a month in hospital and, even when he was finally well enough to return to his job as a lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, he struggled with basic tasks he once took for granted, such as reading and writing.

Although these challenges meant that Michael struggled with everyday activities, he gradually managed to rebuild his life - until tragedy struck again at Christmas 2012.

Michael had been at home when he fell and hit his head, which resulted in him suffering frequent epileptic fits after sustaining further damage to his brain. It was only after this second incident that he discovered Headway, which supports individuals and their families who have been affected by brain injury.

"It was a privilege to be asked to cut the ribbon and declare the new store officially open for business," said Michael.

"Headway does valuable work and hopefully the shop's presence in Poynton will raise some much-needed awareness of brain injury in the area. The team has done a great job on the shop - it is brilliantly positioned at the centre of the town's shopping area and it looks a cut above the rest.

"After my brain injury, people would kindly put newspapers down for me to read, but all I could manage were the pictures.

"Age is irrelevant when it comes to brain injury. It happened to me in my 30s and then again a year and a half ago - it can happen to anyone."

Carol Tennet, Head of Retail at Headway, said: "Michael is a shining example that there can be a life after brain injury. It is an honour that he has agreed to support the cause and attend the opening ceremony.

"We are very grateful for all the generous people who have donated stock so far, as well as for Briana Scally from Irwin Mitchell Solicitors who has proved invaluable when creating the lease for the new premises.

"We rely heavily upon the support of the public and we will warmly welcome anyone who wants to clear out your clutter by donating their unwanted items to the shop so that we can help people affected by brain injury."

Anyone who would like to donate, volunteer, or simply explore the new Headway shop is invited to come along to the opening ceremony at 19 Park Road, Poynton, at 10am on Thursday 2 October.

About Headway

Headway – the UK's leading brain injury charity – provides support, services and information to brain injury survivors, their families and carers, as well as to professionals in the health and legal fields. It has more than 100 groups and branches throughout the UK.

Key facts

- It is estimated that across the UK there are well over 500,000 people of working age living with permanent disabilities as a result of head injury
- Each year, around 1 million people attend hospital A&E in the UK following head injury
- Approximately half of deaths in people under 40 are due to head injury
- Head injury accounts for about 30 per cent of traumatic deaths and a higher proportion of long-term disability
- Men are two or three times more likely to have a brain injury than women. This increases to five times more likely in the 15-29 age range
- The major causes of head injury are road traffic accidents, falls and accidents at home or at work

For more information please contact the Headway UK press office on 0115 947 1906 or email press.officer@headway.org.uk.

Rachel Smith

Press Officer



the brain injury association

Direct line (office hours only): 0115 947 1906

www.headway.org.uk