

Plea to owner of urn – and ashes

At first, they thought it was a cocktail shaker.

But a silver container found at the bottom of a bag donated to a homeless charity has turned out to be far less frivolous – it contains ashes.

The shop where it was dropped off is now appealing for the owner to come forward to claim what they believe may be the remains of a



A call has gone out for the owner of this urn to come forward

loved one. Up to 20 bags of cast-offs were left at the Emmaus shop in Knights Hill, West Norwood, on Thursday afternoon.

Manager Ross Watkins was emptying the bags when he found it.

He said: "I was working through the stuff and it was at the bottom of the bag. At first I thought, 'is that a cocktail shaker?' I looked inside and realised it wasn't. I have seen a few urns in my time so I know exactly what it is. We are concerned someone has made a big mistake. The person who brought it in also left a lot of CDs."

If you can help, please call 020 8761 4276.

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Battersea Dogs & Cats Home volunteer Katie Morgan receives a congratulatory kiss from one of the residents

in my view



Christopher Brunker,
chairman Headway
South West London

Volunteers key to keeping our services alive

Headway South West London has started two new services in Balham. Our first daytime support group and a drop-in advice service are both running on the first Tuesday of every month for people affected by an acquired brain injury.

Acquired brain injury is the term used to describe the long-term effects of damage to the brain caused by strokes and haemorrhages, head injuries, brain tumours and infections like meningitis. It can happen to anyone with little or no warning and it changes the lives of victims, their families and friends. Around 6,900 people suffer acquired brain injury in South West London every year, and the effects can last a lifetime.

People with acquired brain injury can face a variety of challenges. Some may no longer be able to find their way home from the end of their own street without help; others struggle to find the words they need to say what they are thinking. Some have problems controlling their emotions, while others find their personalities have changed. This can lead to damaged relationships and disrupted lives. Many acquired brain injury sufferers find their condition improves with time and help but most will have to deal with difficulties that few outsiders understand or even recognise for the rest of their lives.

Headway South West London, which is affiliated to Headway UK, provides a time and a place for adults with an acquired brain injury and those who care for them to meet other people like themselves to share problems and solutions with a trained facilitator to help with advice and education.

The new monthly support group meets from 10am to 11.30am on the first Tuesday of the month in Balham Library Hall. A drop-in advice service is available from 11.30am to 1pm for people with acquired brain injury seeking help with tasks such as filling in benefits forms or finding information about support services.

Headway South West London also runs three monthly evening support groups in Wimbledon, Richmond and Croydon for adults of all ages with acquired brain injury as well as regular meetings for their families, friends and carers and social events. All of this work depends on the generosity of donors and fundraisers. Volunteers are taking part in the Richmond to Windsor bike ride on 4 September and more fundraising events are planned. For more information about our services and volunteering opportunities or to make a donation, please visit: www.headwayswondon.org

Katie grows into new job

BY SHUJAU AZAM
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Battersea Dogs & Cats Home has celebrated the appointment of its first volunteer head gardener, Katie Morgan, with the unveiling of a commemorative bench in her honour.

Thanks to a £200,000 award in funding from the People's Postcode Lottery, the charity says it is able to recognise and reward the achievements of its volunteers, as part of strengthening its volunteering and fostering programme.

A recent project for Katie and fellow volunteers involved renovating Mary's Garden – a secure area within the home's London site, named after the home's founder Mary Tealby – to provide the dogs with a physically and mentally stimulating area where they can enjoy time off the lead. Activities within the garden include a sandpit, paddling pool and tunnel, plus a carefully curated garden – all thanks to Katie's horticultural

skills – designed to provide the dogs with a sensory experience.

Katie officially opened the garden, cutting the ribbon in front of Battersea staff and fellow volunteers, before being presented with the surprise bench.

Charlotte Fielder, head of volunteering and fostering, explained: "We want our volunteers to have a quality volunteering experience and to know how important their roles are in supporting and augmenting the work of our staff."

"Katie is a great example of an immensely committed volunteer who gives her time and talents. We are so proud to have her volunteering with us and it's an honour to present Katie with the bench."

Katie started volunteering at Battersea in 2011 as a dog socialiser and has taken on a number of additional roles.

In her new role she will continue to look after the home's gardens and plants, in addition to recruiting more volunteer gardeners.

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