



A message from the CEO

JOHN AIZLEWOOD

As I reflect on the past six months, I am humbled and enthused by what clients, past and present, say about Broadway Lodge, as well as by what I see here.

I would like to firstly thank the number of charities who have supported us with our charity bed fund, an important aspect of what we do. Through their generosity, we have been proudly able to offer a stay for four people this past year via our charity bed scheme.

Secondly, the team are bringing new ideas to life here, from re-imagining medical processes in order to give the best support possible to those with ketamine addiction, to introducing new creative workshops. It's so great to see the impact this has.

May I also thank everyone who was able to come to our reunion in September. It was so inspiring to see so many of you living in recovery and it was a real privilege to listen to all the stories and witness the encouragement you all gave to the current clients here as well as staff.

Kindest regards,
John

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Our Reunion - Saturday 13th September

The 2025 reunion was held on Saturday 13th September, and what a fantastic day it was! Reunions are always incredible days filled with connection, love and happiness and this one was no different.

In total, 116 former clients arrived at Broadway Lodge. Many staff members agreed that this year's reunion seemed to feel particularly enjoyable and special. It was wonderful to see so many former clients looking so well and loving their time back at the Miracle Mansion™. There were some happy tears too, from ex-clients feeling a surge of emotion as they arrived.

The new finish at 6pm instead of the usual 5pm, allowed Markkus and the team to cram in more than ever and nothing felt too rushed, the afternoon flowed smoothly.

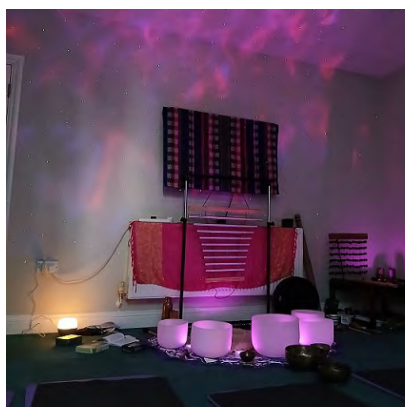
Some of the new additions this year was the sale of Broadway Lodge hoodies and t-shirts and raffling sessions with limited spaces which were for a sound bath, reiki, mahalo meditation and Indian head massage. Another new feature at this years' reunion included a live electric guitar piece from Queen's 'We Will Rock You' being played in Chrissy's drumming circle (which our local MP, Dan Aldridge, took part in). In addition, a memorial tree was added in the marquee, covered in fairy lights for people to leave a special handwritten tribute to friends and loved ones who are no longer with us, which was a beautiful feature. We also welcomed catering company, Caribbean Cuisine, who offered a mouth-watering selection of Caribbean meals as well as feel-good tunes.

Former client Peter, who stayed at Broadway Lodge in 1991 with a fellow reunion guest, Bette, flew in with his wife all the way from Arizona to join us! They are pictured below (bottom right). Peter kindly agreed to share his story with two fellow 'old timers' at the start of the reunion.



Markkus closed the day with a clean time countdown and the total recovery time of people at the reunion was an incredible 523 years and three months, wow!!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the journey to come back to Broadway Lodge to celebrate recovery. We very much look forward to our 2026 reunion for another enormously special and joyous day of celebration (date to be announced).



A weekend stay for the three highest bidders!

Following their successful bids at the 2024 reunion auction, three former clients in recovery returned individually, each for a long weekend with us earlier this year, re-engaging with the programme. Each of them relished the opportunity to stay at Broadway Lodge as a client again and experienced the positive impact of the treatment provided. They participated in individual counselling and engaged in group sessions, enhancing and reinvigorating their recovery with new learnings and awareness.

Recovery Renewal weekend stays are £400. If you're reading this as a former client, are clean/sober and would like to return for a long weekend (Friday afternoon - Monday morning or Sunday night), please email hello@broadwaylodge.org.uk

Limited availability.

Would you like a Recovery Renewal weekend stay?



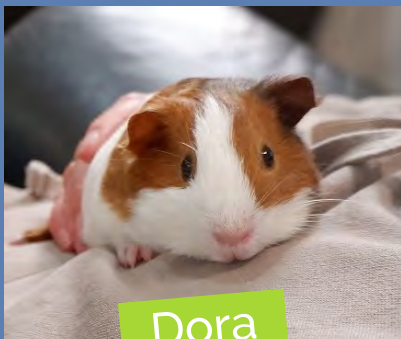
Meet our new therapeutic guinea pigs: Dora, Hope & Electra

In July, we welcomed three new permanent residents: Dora, Hope and Electra, the Broadway Lodge guinea pigs.

They have a spacious hutch that they are growing in (and they have grown a lot so far!), and are being very well looked after. Each day, they come into the main house for cuddles and play time and they also have a large run in the top garden to enjoy when the weather allows. Many of our clients adore them. These gentle and affectionate companions bring therapeutic value to their treatment experience, providing comfort and calmness.



The guinea pigs pictured in July:



Dora



Hope



Electra

Here's what some clients had to say about them...

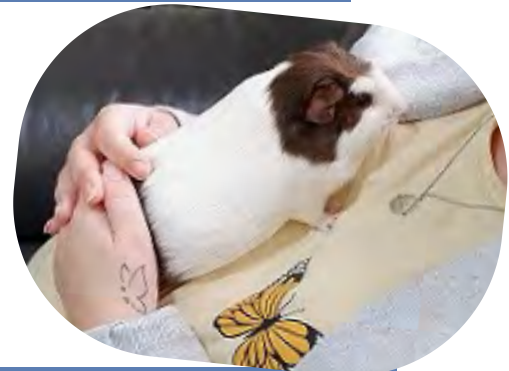


"They make me feel happy."

"They've brought out the affection in me - I wasn't affectionate at all before."



"Holding them makes me feel a lot calmer."



"I can't usually concentrate on reading but because I had the guinea pig resting on me, I finished reading the whole Step 3 booklet in one go."

The guinea pigs pictured in October

Words of wisdom & favourite quotes from the team...

"We are called human beings, not human doings."

Mags, Health Care Assistant & Spiritual Companion

"Start over, my darling. Be brave enough to find the life you want and courageous enough to chase it. Then start over and love yourself the way you were always meant to." Madalyn Beck. My own words would be: Find compassion and find yourself.

Louise, Counsellor

One of my favourite's is "Never have an argument with someone who is not in the room." Saves me hours of rehearsing/rehashing.

Anne, Counsellor

"Recovery is not about being right; it's about allowing ourselves to be who we are and accepting others as they are."

Vicky, Admissions Team Lead

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started, break down big tasks into smaller, more manageable steps."

Emma, Housekeeper

One of my favourite quotes: "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can." by Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882. Also, there is the famous poem by William H Davies 1871-1940 which begins "What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep and cows...."

Jan, Project Support & Administrator

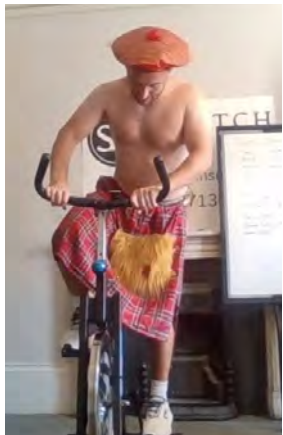
Switch Health is Fundraising for Broadway Lodge

It was a pleasure to welcome Josh, Donna and Connor from the Switch Health team to Broadway Lodge at the beginning of June (pictured with our CEO, John Aizlewood). They were here to look around because they want to support us by raising £10,000 over the year.

Switch Health are a leading health insurance broker based in Cheltenham. Their interest and respect for what we do is incredible and we are really touched and grateful for everything they are doing to raise money for our charity,



They have undertaken two challenges already. Their first fundraiser was ambitious - a static cycle for 24-hours straight! This began at 8am on Friday 13th June and they completed at 8am the following morning. It was live streamed to allow spectators to check in throughout. Numerous employees at Switch Health took part in great spirit, choosing fancy dress to complete their stint on the bike. In total, they cycled the equivalent of 733.04km and raised almost £2,000. A massive well done to everyone who took part, especially the tired fundraisers on the dreaded night shift!



Connor from the team later completed the Cheltenham triathlon on 14th September, adding over £200 to their fundraising pot which currently stands at £2,025. If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code below which will take you to their JustGiving fundraising page.

We are extremely grateful to everyone at Switch Health and all of the generous and kind donors for supporting Broadway Lodge.

Donate Online

If you would like to make a donation to Broadway Lodge and support the efforts of the Switch Health team, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code below to go to their JustGiving page.

Thank you for however much you can give.



www.switchhealth.co.uk

Garden volunteers for the day

Kieran, Connor and Jacob all work at Sedgemoor Welcome Break service station on the M5 and chose to spend their one 'community care day' at Broadway Lodge. This is a scheme whereby Welcome Break employees spend time helping a good cause in their local area.

They are pictured alongside our Maintenance Manager Stuart (left) and CEO, John (right).

We really value their support. A big thank you to Kieran, Connor and Jacob.



Partners& raise over £1,300

Congratulations to one of our corporate supporters, Partners&, for opening a brand new office in Bristol in September. They held an official opening event which our CEO, John, and Director of Clinical Care, Registered Manager & Deputy CEO, Lee, attended. During this event John and Lee spoke to people about the work we do. On the night, attendees made donations and participated in a charity raffle. Partners& raised over £1,300 on the night!

Thank you to Partners& and everyone who attended and supported us.



We are extremely grateful for the continuation of support from Partners& who chose Broadway Lodge as one of their charities of the year in spring 2024. They have raised a considerable amount for our charity which we appreciate immeasurably.



www.partnersand.com

Aftercare clients & staff visit Castle School in Taunton



Thirty in-person aftercare clients and Broadway Lodge aftercare staff made the trip to Castle School (a secondary school) on Thursday 9th October at the invitation of Head of Faculty, Martin Wilkins (pictured above, first left). Broadway Lodge clients in recovery have been warmly welcomed by staff and pupils over the years. On this occasion we were joined by very willing ex Sefton Park clients too.

Our time at the school featured a presentation by Helen Thorn, Aftercare Counsellor, followed by breakout sessions where clients were able to share their experiences with pupils and answer any questions. Helen thanked all clients who attended, particularly for their time, words and energy given so freely to the pupils during the day. She went on to say "what a gift you have delivered to those pupils today, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Here's what some of the clients said after the visit...

"Wow, what an amazing experience. I didn't know if I would be able to go through with this. It was an emotional experience but well worth it and I hope the kids will get something out of it."

"The whole experience was a privilege and a pleasure."

"A very emotional but spiritual experience for me. It brought back the reality that I have a 13 year old daughter out there who needs her mum. I really enjoyed the opportunity to give something back."

"I was apprehensive but feel really proud that I was able to share my story and hopefully influence some young people not to make the same mistakes I did."

"Thanks to everyone who took part in making it a good day from start to finish. I found it unexpectedly very emotional from the second those kids started entering the school hall. I started having strange flashbacks to when I was as innocent as them. I felt sad for the boy I was back then, and I felt even sadder knowing that it's likely some of those kids will end up having to go through the same thing as we have. So, if what we've done today changes just one path, one life, then it's been an amazing day."

Room named after former client

"The Kennedy Room"

Back in September 2024, we held an auction at our special 'red carpet' reunion in our 50th anniversary year. One of the auction lots was to have one of the bedrooms named after themselves or someone they choose. We had a winning bidder and they chose to name the room after their friend, John Kennedy, who came into treatment at Broadway Lodge in 2005.

Once John completed treatment, he later returned as a volunteer and then in a paid post as a support worker for a period of time, lifting spirits in the house with his witty, bubbly, friendly and caring personality.

John has written a brief summary of his journey into Broadway Lodge which is forever encapsulated on a plaque and fixed in the corridor outside of bedroom 25 (now known as 'The Kennedy Room'), located on the ground floor opposite the lift.

On the 22nd October, John returned to Broadway Lodge to see the plaque in place and it was wonderful to see him again, smiling and happy in his 20th year of recovery.

A big thank you to the bidder and to John, for making this happen.



The plaque reads:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Broadway Lodge - both those who came before me and those who will come after.

My life began with a background marked by violence and crime, where love was scarce and, when it was shown, often came at a cost. For many years, I found myself in various institutions - from children's homes to category A prisons and even spending five consecutive years in the high-security mental institution of Rampton,

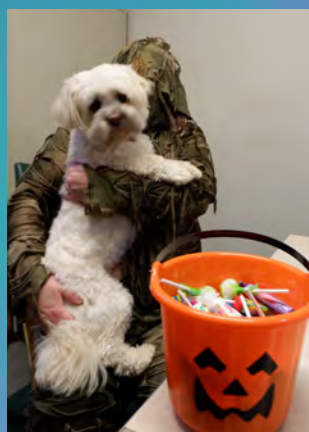
However, on the 5th of December 2005, I entered treatment at Broadway Lodge and completed my journey on the 16th of July 2006. Today, I am approaching my 20th year of complete abstinence and I'm frequently asked what led me to be where I am today. The answer is simple: it was the unconditional love and compassion shown to me by the staff and peers at Broadway Lodge.

Their support was the catalyst for my transformation, and it is through that love and understanding that I was able to start anew."

JOHN KENNEDY, 2025
former client at Broadway Lodge



HALLOWEEN



Mandy, who works in our housekeeping team, made some super-tasty autumnal-themed cakes for staff and clients on halloween. Counsellor Chrissy turned into a ghoul for the day (pictured left, cuddling chief trick or treater, Bo).



Wellbeing Wednesday Group's Pumpkin Carving

On Wednesday 22nd October, participants who attended the morning Wellbeing Wednesday session (a women-only group), honoured the spooky season by carving pumpkins. This activity brought out their creative and fun side. After some time carving shapes and adding detail to their pumpkins, it was time to darken the room and add candles to finally see the end result of their work.

There's clearly a lot of artistic talent in the group - these are FA-BOO-LOUS!

What is Wellbeing Wednesday?

Wellbeing Wednesday sessions are led by Jan and Wendy from Broadway Lodge and held in Weston-super-Mare town centre. They are open to people living in North Somerset who are unemployed and recovering from addiction, domestic abuse, trauma or mental health and who want to improve their wellbeing and move forward. There is a women-only session on Wednesday mornings focused on one of the '5 ways to wellbeing', and a mixed-gender group session in the afternoon which usually involves auricular acupuncture followed by a sound bath or drumming circle.

If you are eligible and would like to register to participate in Wellbeing Wednesday, please email wellbeing@broadwaylodge.org.uk or call Wendy on 07855 015480 or Jan on 07440 072498. Once you are fully registered you will be given further details of upcoming sessions.



Growing Awareness

This year, numerous employees have attended different conferences and events to represent Broadway Lodge in order to help spread awareness of our services as well as the importance of the addiction treatment sector. We have also been involved in government lobbying, aiming for addiction treatment to be kept top of mind in government as we all know how vital it is for people struggling with addiction in the UK to be able to access the support they need.

Conferences and events Broadway Lodge have exhibited at have included:

Health & Wellbeing at Work: a 2-day event in Birmingham targeting employers.

UKESAD: a 2-day sector conference meeting with other providers to learn and share ideas and best practice.

Drink & Drug News (DDN) conference: a 1-day event in Birmingham attended by various drug and alcohol support charities and services.

North Somerset Recovery Festival: a 1-day celebration of recovery right here in our local town of Weston-super-Mare.

Parliament & Lobbying: Our CEO, John, has represented Broadway Lodge and Choices Rehabs (a network of independent UK rehabs that we are a member of), at numerous government meetings. He spoke to MP's in parliament with Karen Biggs (CEO of Phoenix Futures), in October, to once again highlight how vital addiction treatment services are so that those who need it can get well. In addition, he joined with representatives from some of the Choices network to have a meeting with Dame Carol Black and on another occasion, with David Gourke, both influential and well respected figures to MP's and the government in Westminster.



Representatives from some of the Choices Rehabs network at the DDN Conference



UKESAD



Meeting with David Gourke (third left)



Choices Rehabs meeting with Dame Carol Black (bottom row, second right)



Dan Aldridge MP (centre) with Markkus & Wendy

Support from our local MP

We have been delighted with the interest and enthusiasm that our local MP, Dan Aldridge, has for Broadway Lodge and other addiction services in and around Weston-super-Mare.

Dan has shown genuine passion about the sector. He understands the incredible impact that happens when an individual is able to have the right support to get into recovery and how it not only changes their lives, but the lives of everyone around them.

In the summer, Dan visited Broadway Lodge and spent time with the team, learning about what we do. He also attended our reunion and said some beautiful words about Broadway Lodge and the people he met that day in a video that he posted on social media after he left. One week later, he engaged with the recovery community once again at the North Somerset Recovery Festival, and is keen to continue supporting the sector.

Tuesday Art

Clients who participate in our art workshops on a Tuesday afternoon have been depicting their own maze on canvas to represent their life journey until the present time in Broadway Lodge. It's a method to explore their life to date in an alternative way than talking or writing and gives them the opportunity to tap into their creative side. Counsellors Jane and Tash lead the art workshops and wanted to show off the detailed work by displaying their creations in the main hall.



Our Free Online Family Programme

Our free, one-day, counsellor-led sessions are designed to be both supportive and educational to help people affected by a loved ones addiction to move forward and improve their well-being.

They are held once a month on a Sunday, 10am - 4.30pm and are open to anyone, whether the person they are close to has stayed at Broadway Lodge or not.

Please share with anyone you know who is affected by a loved ones addiction and could benefit from our family programme.



How To Read More & Book:

You can see the upcoming sessions in the events section on our website where you will also be able to read more about it and book a place:

www.broadwaylodge.org.uk/events



Christmas Donation

If you would like to do a good deed this Christmas time, please consider making a donation, of any amount you can, to support our independent treatment centre.

As a small charity, every penny donated to Broadway Lodge directly enhances the care and experience our clients receive and helps us to continue our vital work in transforming lives. We are hugely appreciative of every single person who decides to kindly make a donation, big or small. Thank you.

How to make a donation:

Scan the QR code below or [click here](#) to make a donation online via our JustGiving page

Make a card payment over the phone by calling finance on 01934 818043 9am - 3pm weekdays

Send via online bank transfer - here are our details:

Account name: Broadway Lodge Limited

Account number: 52354060

Sort code: 30-90-89

please write 'donation' in the reference box



Thank you



Thank you for reading our newsletter. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026!

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Registered Charity Number 269167

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TRANSFORMING LIVES