



Warmest congratulations to Jessica Hunter, who has been doing extremely valuable data inputting work for us as a volunteer for several months, and who has now secured employment. Jess's contribution to our work has been tremendous and we will miss her cheerful and hardworking personality. Everyone at Brushstrokes wishes her a successful future at her new company.

Jessica says, 'Thank you for allowing me to work here. I have enjoyed it very much and I am very grateful for all that I have achieved and my confidence has improved greatly. I will be working for Changing Our Lives in Hagley, where I will be

working with their Apple products to design and improve their website. I will miss you all very much and will be keeping in touch to let you know how I'm doing. Thanks so much for everything!'

Thank you also to Sarah who has accompanied and assisted Jessica each week and who likewise has now begun a new work project. We appreciate all your efforts, Sarah, and wish you well in your new environment.

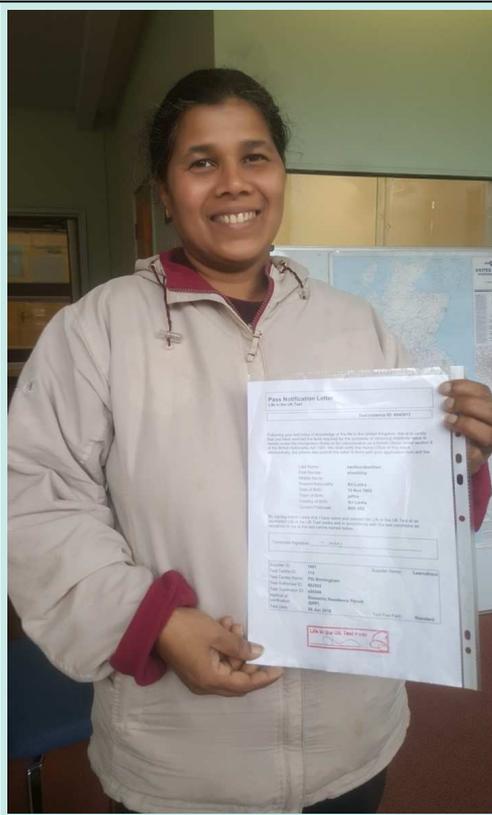
Pictured above are Lukano, Carol, Jessica, Sarah and Martin.

Members of Brushstrokes Community Project, Dave, Lucy, Mary and Martin, pictured together with the Deputy Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Suzanne Hartwell, her consort, Geoffrey Deakin, Councillor Syeda Khatun and representatives of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services: Deputy Lieutenant Sylvia Parkin, Deputy Lieutenant John Wood, and Deputy Lieutenant Gurpreet Bhatia.

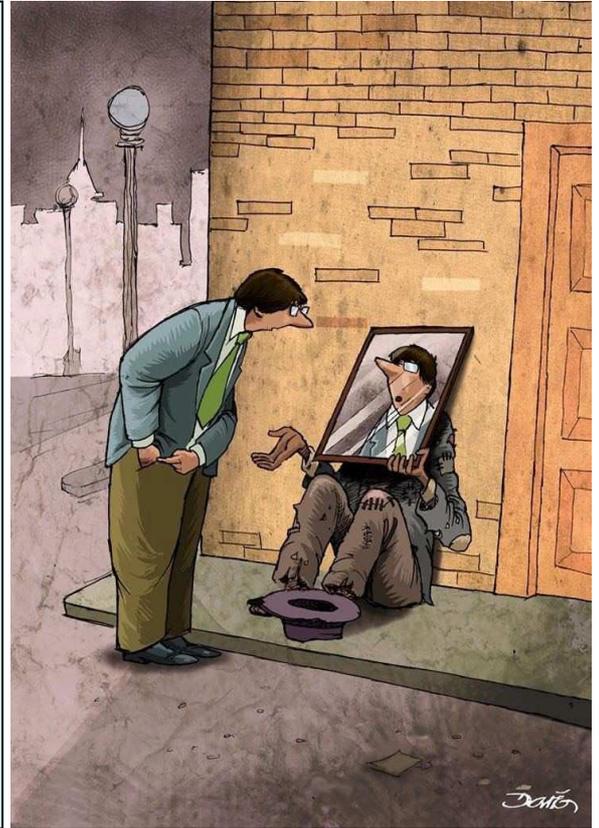
Brushstrokes had been invited to enjoy afternoon tea at Lightwood House, Bearwood, in order to celebrate our nomination for this prestigious award. We are greatly honoured by this recognition of our work with volunteers and although we were not ultimately successful in winning the award we justly feel very proud to have been considered.

Thank you to Martin, our Volunteer Coordinator, for tirelessly supporting our brilliant volunteers and to all at Sandwell MBC who were involved in our nomination.





Many congratulations to Shanthiny who has passed her Life in the UK exam. Her dedication and effort in achieving this has been nothing short of admirable and we wish her every success for the future. Well done also to Shanthiny's teacher (and Brushstrokes ESOL Coordinator), Jane, for inspiring such commitment to study.



Free Brushstrokes Computer Class for Complete Beginners

Every Tuesday from 3pm till 4.30pm
 Update your IT skills in a warm, friendly environment
 No appointment necessary. All welcome
 Beginning Tuesday 10th September 2019
 For further details please contact Nigel: 0121 565 2234



Above: Grateful recipients of help given by Brushstrokes Immigration Adviser, Salman Mirza, visited him with a thank you gift of fresh fruit for passionately working on their behalf. The immigration drop-in service is held at Brushstrokes every Friday between 0900 and 1100.

Student Placement: Devan Patel

Hi, my name is Devan and I came to Brushstrokes to volunteer and gain some work experience. I was attracted to Brushstrokes because of its core moral principles. The focus on kindness, equality, and giving without expecting anything back made me want to come and try and support in any way I could. Also, I knew that this experience would make me more grateful and appreciative for everything I had. I hope to be able to help as many people as I can and make them feel at ease. Even though I am only here for three days, I hope I can make some meaningful impact. Even if I don't have enough time to help everyone that comes through the door for support, advice or help, I hope to be able to help with sorting things out, administration, filing etc. because I want to support the amazing people running the project and help them with their work in any way I can. Finally, I would like to thank Brushstrokes for giving me the opportunity to have this experience which no doubt I will keep with me for a long time.

*Thank you
 Devan*





Thank you to Costacia, Diana, Martin and Kathy who represented Brushstrokes at the Father Hudson's fete in Coleshill on Saturday 29th June. Here they are on our special 'Tomola' stall, together with former Brushstrokes project manager, Teresa Clements (right).

Jo Watters, Head of Community Projects at Father Hudson's Care, said, 'Dear Martin, Thank you so much to you and your volunteer team for helping at the fete on Saturday – it is so much appreciated that you came all the way over and spent the day supporting us (as well as providing such wonderful food!). Best wishes.

We would like to sincerely thank Seemia Theatre for visiting Brushstrokes Community Project, Smethwick, last Friday for our Refugee Week celebration. Their presence and singing made our community cafe a very bright and happy place. Staff members, Martin and Harriet, attended their evening drama production of Evros -- The Crossing River, and found it a very humbling and moving experience. Thank you to all concerned with Seemia and very best wishes for future inspiring productions.

Seemia, an award-winning international ensemble, was originally established in 2012 by Artistic Director Sara Amini and performer Maryam Davari.

Seemia, which translates as 'Casting a spell with words', can be contacted on info@seemia.com.



ESOL End of Term Trip — On Thursday 27th June our ESOL classes visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We caught the train from Smethwick Rolfe Street and everyone used English to buy their own tickets. Altogether 52 students, children, friends and teachers enjoyed seeing The Staffordshire Hoard and other parts of the museum. As well as being a very pleasant and informative day out the trip afforded students many opportunities to practise their English skills, including purchasing rail tickets and ordering snacks. Thank you to Jane for organising this lovely day out in the sunshine.



Jane says: 'Today I took a large group of ESOL students to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We caught the train and the students all asked for and bought their own tickets. The ticket clerk at Smethwick Rolfe Street was patient and helpful and allowed everyone to practise their English, prompting them with questions when necessary. Staff at New Street were totally brilliant when someone left their bag on the train. We got it back within the hour. It restored my faith in our railways.'



ESOL End of Term Trip continued...



MUSEUM &
ART GALLERY
BIRMINGHAM



Some of Brushstrokes' ESOL team enjoying a very well-deserved end of year meal at The Garden House, Birmingham. Thank you to all our wonderful ESOL volunteers for making monumental improvements in the lives of learners. Your contribution to our work is greatly appreciated.



Please note that enrolment for ESOL classes at Brushstrokes for the new year will be Mon 2nd to Thurs 5th September 2019.

What's on at Brushstrokes 2019

Monday

Advice and Information: 0900 — 1200 drop-in.
Resources distribution (appointments only).
ESOL/IELTS classes.

Tuesday

Food distribution (1200 — 1500).
ESOL classes.
Beginners IT class (1500 — 1650).

Wednesday

Advice and Information: 0900 — 1200 drop-in.
Work Club 1500 — 1700 (appointments only).
Resources distribution (appointments only).

ESOL/IELTS/Life in the UK classes.

Thursday

Food distribution (1200 — 1500).
ESOL/IELTS classes.

Friday

Immigration drop in service (0900 — 1100).
Knit and Natter (10.00 — 12.00).
Community Café (1200 — 1400).
EU Settlement Scheme Clinic (090 — 1200)
Resources distribution (appointments only).

Contact us:

Brushstrokes Community Project
St Philips Parish Centre
Watt Street (off Messenger Road)
Smethwick, B66 3DA

Phone: 0121 565 2234

E-mail: info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Website: www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Brushstrokes receives support from:



Parish of St Philip Neri



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