



Brushstrokes

Community Project

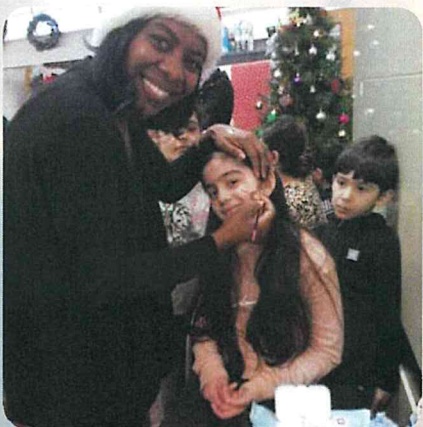
January 2023

Happy New Year



Christmas Gifts Party

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year,
Best Wishes to all for 2023!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year



Brushstrokes welcomes Simon Wallaston, Harm Reduction Project Lead, from Cranstoun Sandwell for Staff training



Pictured : Simon Wollaston, Harm Reduction Project Lead, with the Cranstoun Community Van used to reach out and support people who use drugs in the area.



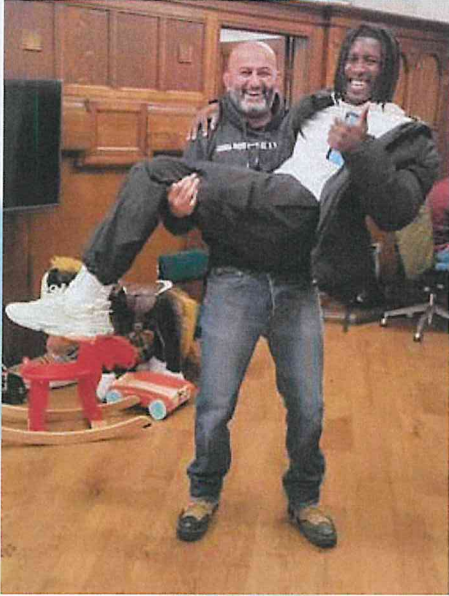
Simon gave a very informative presentation to over thirty staff regarding the many forms of drugs being used, the detrimental effects that these have on our local community and the potential dangers of misuse. One of the messages Simon stressed was that we must not write off persons as “drug addicts” but see them as “people who use drugs” and thereby help remove any stigma and prejudice.

Happy Birthday Martin!



“Happy birthday to you. From good friends and true, from old friends and new, may good luck go with you and happiness too!”

Brushstrokes appreciations



After coming to the UK as a child, Alex a top local footballer gets his stay in the UK!

He came into the office and Salman who has assisted him in his immigration journey was over the moon. (But a bit disappointed he chose football over wrestling as a sport)

Alex told staff "Thank You for all your help all over the years ♥"



WELCOME TO WELCOME WEDNESDAYS!

Our Welcome Wednesdays sessions have got off to a great start in 2023. Copious amounts of table tennis, table football and chess have been played, mugs of teas and tasty cakes have been enjoyed, and there has been lots of sharing of cultures. This is a great environment for people to relax, get to know new people and get out the house. Come down any Wednesday 5-7pm and join us at Welcome Wednesdays! Everyone's welcome and the more the merrier!





Food from all corners of the world at the Service User Panel's Bring & Share

Pupusas from El Salvador, injera from Ethiopia, jollof rice from Nigeria and samosas from India, were just some of the culinary delights enjoyed at our Service User Panel's Bring and Share Christmas celebration. The event, organised by members of our Service User Panel, allowed our service users to bring in foods from their home cultures. The different types of food offer led to lots of food-related chat and we realised how important food is to our identity. In Smethwick and surrounding areas we are fortunate that a lot of shops cater for the different cultures in our community, but unfortunately, they can be costly. A great time was had by all and we can't wait for the next chance to bring people around the table and get our taste buds going!

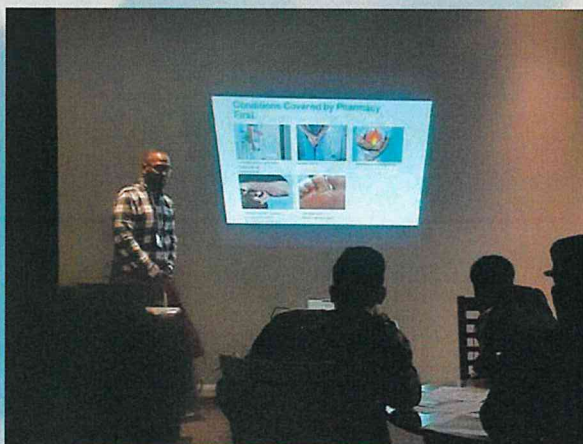


Brushstrokes delivered a session of Understanding the NHS at West Plaza Hotel on 18th November.

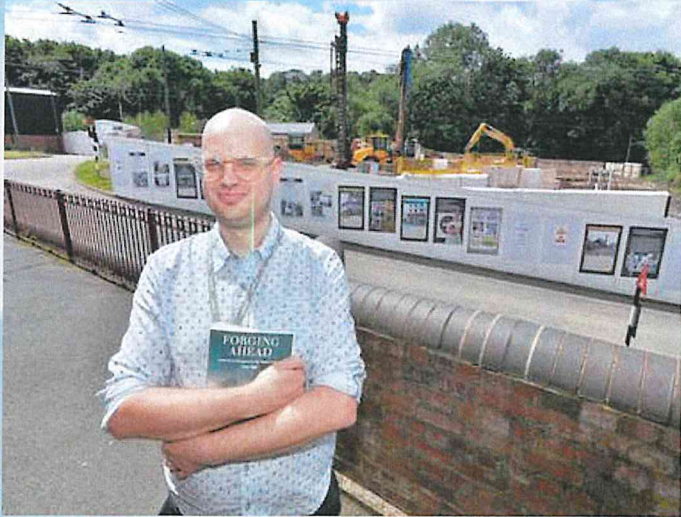
In this session we aimed to raise awareness for asylum seekers about how the health system works in the UK, and where should they go when they feel unwell.

We also explained the Choose Well Stay Well Model and Pharmacy 1st Scheme.

Many people attended this session, and they stated the information is really helpful and now they know exactly where should go when they feel unwell.



HISTORY TALK - COME AND LEARN ABOUT SMETHWICK!



With the dual purpose of increasing our service users' knowledge of the rich history where they live, and the bringing together of different corners of our diverse local community, we have the privilege of inviting local historian Simon Briercliffe to Brushstrokes. Simon, who is an author and historical researcher for the Black Country Living Museum, (which was recently visited by our Afghan and Ukrainian families), will be providing us with a bespoke talk for Brushstrokes about the history of Smethwick. The talk is taking place on Wednesday 1st February at 7pm, and is open to everyone. Come and learn about the interesting place that is Smethwick!



BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

Grab some popcorn and enjoy a film with us: We're delighted to tell you that we are continuing our collaboration with Black Country Touring to show more films at Brushstrokes this year. As with films shown in the past, we encourage our service users to recommend titles that they'd like to watch at our film evenings. We've shown a range of films to tap into some of the different nationalities represented at Brushstrokes, and hope to continue this going forwards. Everyone's welcome to come along and if you'd like to make a recommendation, drop in and have a word with Bryan



A TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SMETHWICK



BY HISTORIAN SIMON BRIERCLIFFE

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY AT 7PM

FREE ENTRY

BRUSHSTROKES, 253 HIGH STREET,
SMETHWICK, B66 3NJ



SCAN ME



BRUSHSTROKES FILM EVENINGS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Contact Bryan on 07827 258 680 or

bryan@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk if you would like to recommend a film for us to show at our film evenings.



COME AND PLAY FOOTBALL 🏈

WITH BENSON COMMUNITY PROJECT &
BRUSHSTROKES



HADLEY STADIUM, WILSON ROAD,
SMETHWICK, B66 4NL

MONDAYS 4.30 - 6PM

SESSIONS START MONDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2023

ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME
CONTACT BRYAN (07827 258 680) IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

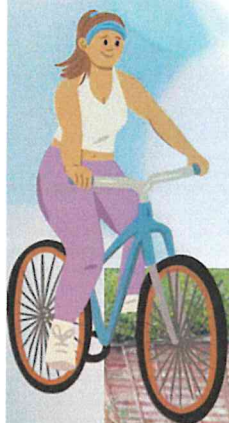
BRINGING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME TO BRUSHSTROKES Service Users!

In partnership with Benson Community Project, Brushstrokes will be offering weekly football sessions from January. These will be taking place at Hadley Stadium, Smethwick, on Mondays at 4:40-6pm.

Unsurprisingly, there has been significant demand from the Brushstrokes community for regular football sessions which have historically been a great way for integration and had positive impacts on mental and physical health.

Thanks to kind donations from the Brushspokes community, we'll be providing our footballers with sporting apparel and boots and we can't wait to get on the pitch!

BRUSHSTROKES BIKE PROJECT



We were delighted to provide a bike to one of our service users, who was really pleased with his new acquisition. The bike was donated by a local family and is now helping Jamal access a range of services, including Brushstrokes. We're planning led rides with British Cycling for this year, so if anyone out there would like to join our cycling community, just get in touch





COME & JOIN OUR:



ART THERAPY SESSION

WITH SANDEEP & MUHAMMED FROM THE NHS

MONDAY 30TH JANUARY

10:30 - 12:30 AT
BRUSHSTROKES



JOIN OUR FRIENDLY & SUPPORTIVE GROUP TO LEARN ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT & HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR WELLBEING



Brushstrokes
Community Project

ESOL Assessment

day

Monday 20th Februry 2023

9am-3pm

No appointment needed

Each assessment takes 30 minutes

Any questions: 07876 898160



Brushstrokes
Community Project



EVERYONE deserves a VOICE



Members of the **Service User Panel** and **Asylum Guides project** play a crucial role in helping our service users.

WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN HOW WE RUN THESE SERVICES SO COME ALONG AND ENJOY A FRESH WAFFLE!

Wednesday 1st Feb
10.30am - 11.30am
@Brushstrokes



Please contact Bryan or Abqa to RSVP

CYCLE MAINTENANCE CLASSES



EVERY MONDAY

FROM MONDAY 30TH JANUARY UNTIL
MONDAY 20TH MARCH

1-4PM

BRUSHSTROKES - SMETHWICK - B66 3NJ

ANY QUERIES - BRYAN 07827 258680

**CYCLE
CONFIDENT**

Brushstrokes
Community Project

IKON

OFF-SITE ON SHOW **FREE**
EXHIBITION 16.12.2022-31.03.2023

VANLEY BURKE
A GIFT TO BIRMINGHAM

HANDSWORTH LIBRARY,
SOHO ROAD,
HANDSWORTH,
BIRMINGHAM B21 9DP
**SUBJECT TO LIBRARY
OPENING TIMES

H C L

VANLEY BURKE
A GIFT TO BIRMINGHAM
16 DECEMBER 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023
HANDSWORTH LIBRARY, BIRMINGHAM B21 9DP

IKON

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham City Council
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

VANLEY BURKE
A GIFT TO BIRMINGHAM

16 DECEMBER 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023
HANDSWORTH LIBRARY

This exhibition features portraits of members of Migrant Voice, a migrant-led national organisation with a hub in Birmingham. For Vanley Burke, it was important to portray participants in their everyday environments, including their homes, community centres and parks, across the inner-city. Each image tells a story of migration, either recent or long past, with subjects accompanied or alone. Displayed together, the photographs present a portrait of Birmingham as a superdiverse city, with residents from many parts of the world.

The exhibition is accompanied by schools' packs (Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) for teachers and students to openly discuss sensitive issues and directly address conflict. Designed by artist educator Haseebah Ali, they include excerpts from interviews with members of Migrant Voice, highlighting the need to challenge assumptions about migration and break down institutional and intercommunal barriers. Free copies of the schools' packs are available at the library and to download from Ikon's website by scanning the QR code below.

A Gift to Birmingham was previously shown at Ikon Gallery (23 March - 03 April 2022), Brushstrokes (20 - 24 June 2022) and Saathi Huddle (15 - 24 July 2022). It was commissioned as part of the Non-Formal Intercommunal Education in Birmingham (NICE-B) project, led by Dr Reza Ghosami, Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Race and Education, University of Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham City Council
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

IKON

Vanley Burke a gift to Birmingham visits Handsworth library.

Staff and service users are featured in this exhibition first showcased at the ikon gallery.

If you are local to Handsworth pop in to have a look and join the library! They are free and a great place to relax

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Albert Einstein

(1879-1955. Theoretical physicist

**Immigration & Asylum
Drop In Advice
Mondays 9.30 till 12.30
Benson Hub Benson Road
B18 5TD**

****Term time only**



Get cost of living tips and advice to your phone

Add us on WhatsApp - 07585 997453
AND TEXT YES



TO UNSUBSCRIBE TEXT STOP

www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell

BECOME AN ASYLUM GUIDE VOLUNTEER

Are you interested in helping Asylum Seekers? Would you like to learn what more can be done to help them? Then you may be the ideal person to become an Asylum Guide Volunteer!!



Why not come along to our Asylum Guide induction on

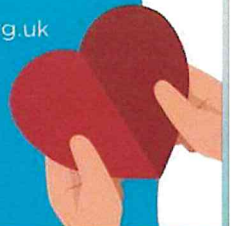
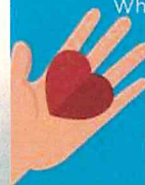
Thursday 5th January and Wednesday 11th January
between 10am - 2pm

Where we can explain how you can play a part in helping those that need some guidance.

(Refreshments will be provided)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ATTEND
Please contact

abqa@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk
or call 07570346848



Struggling with your rent?



**LET US
HELP
YOU!**

MONEY AND BUDGETING ADVICE
EXTRA HELP WITH YOUR RENT
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
HELP GETTING DIGITAL
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT
LANGUAGE SUPPORT
BENEFIT ADVICE



If you're struggling with your rent then we're here to help.
Call us on 0121 737 5148 for advice



Contact us:

Brushstrokes Community Project

253 High Street,

Smethwick,

B66 3NJ

Phone: 0121 565 2234

E-mail: info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Website: www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Brushstrokes receives support from:

