

Brushstrokes *Messenger*

Father
Hudson's
Care

*"We must be in the hand of God like a brush
in the hand of the painter"* Nicolas Barré

April 2019

Happy Easter



This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 JOHN 3:16

May we wish everyone a very Happy Easter holiday.



Work Club Success Many congratulations to Mark and to Tomasz for securing employment last month. Both gentlemen attended our Work Club and we are thrilled with their good news. Mark said he was 'so delighted' and wished to thank the Brushstrokes team for 'changing his life'. Well done to all who have supported these two people.



Congratulations to Fatoumata who has successfully been rehomed in Smethwick by Sandwell Council Housing. Fatoumata, her husband and four children have been supported throughout a difficult time by Brushstrokes' advisers, Megan, Harriet and Lorraine. She says, 'Thank you for all your help. I am very happy with all you have done for me. God bless you. You are the best!' Fatoumata is a great friend of Brushstrokes and attends our ESOL class to develop her English language skills. We could not be more happy for her and her young family. Pictured are: Carol, Fatoumata and Harriet.

HERE'S THE NEWS

We are happy to announce that Brushstrokes now has two additional members of staff. Advisers, Salman (immigration issues) and Sija (currently helping with EU resettlement issues), will be assisting people at the centre throughout the week.

Would you like to help us with our services — answering the telephone and taking messages, inputting data onto our computers or simply by greeting people warmly and being willing to make refreshments for visitors? Brushstrokes now has positions for administration, reception and hospitality volunteers and would love to hear from you if at all interested.

Please contact us on 0121 565 2234.

Please note that Brushstrokes Community Project will be closed over the Easter period (Good Friday and Easter Monday) but will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April. ESOL classes restart on Monday 29th April.

Welcome Jack

A warm Brushstrokes welcome to Jack Anthony Mckeon-Ollis. Jack has joined us as a volunteer ESOL teaching assistant and is working with Entry classes. Here he introduces himself: My name is Jack Ollis and I am an ESOL teaching volunteer. I came to Brushstrokes to gain the experience I need to become an English teacher abroad. I find myself very lucky to be a part of a wonderful organisation that is able to give people a new start in the UK. I hope to retain the energy of Brushstrokes with me when I start my career. I am very happy to make a difference and look forward to meeting new people.



Thank you to our amazing team of catering and café volunteers. Every week they prepare and serve a selection of fresh, hot, delicious food to diners at our free community café. Pictured (L to R) are Nabilla, Makbule, Haleema, Shakeera and Jennifer.



We are very grateful to the staff, parents and children of St John Bosco School, West Bromwich for their wonderfully kind donation of Easter Eggs, delivered by Jackie. These lovely gifts have been given out to the children of families we work with and produced many smiles. Thank you for thinking of us. By the way, it is worth phoning the school just to listen to their delightful answer phone recorded message :)
Happy Easter, St John Bosco RC Primary School!



Brushstrokes at the Forefront of New National Initiative

Brushstrokes Community Project is part of a new national coalition seeking to transform the support offered to people seeking asylum. We were privileged to be asked to present our learning from the Asylum Early Action project at the launch of the Asylum Early Action Charter in Leeds on the 4th April.

Lukano and Dave were joined by Alaa, Awadh and Baoumi, three of our service users, who spoke about the impact that the Asylum Guides project had made for them and the support Brushstrokes had provided. All had been supported by one of our volunteer asylum guides and been granted Refugee status. The launch event provided an opportunity for us to highlight the difference our outreach approach is making for those who are in asylum support in our area and the real benefits of early contact with them and how it contributes to prevent them falling into crisis.



To find out more about Asylum Early Action visit <https://asylumearlyaction.org>





Thank you to all who attended the Smethwick Food Festival held at Brushstrokes on the 29th March. It was a great success with at least 48 diners being treated to a taste of food from Smethwick cultures including Italian, Kurdish, Indian and Syrian.



I have never experienced such a variety of food from different countries. It has been an excellent event.
— Martin, café customer.

I did not realise there were so many people involved in providing food for your café. It is wonderful to see.
— Valentina



A fond farewell to Sally as she leaves Brushstrokes to embark on a new journey. Best wishes, Sally.



My name is Mursal Barekzai, originally from Afghanistan and now a British citizen. I am a second year Wolverhampton University student studying Education Studies. As a part of my studies I have had to complete a placement and I have decided to do this at Brushstrokes. The internship opportunity I had with Brushstrokes was a great chance for my learning and professional development. I would like to thank all members of staff at Brushstrokes for their guidance and support whilst on my placement. Every member of staff made me feel part of the team and provided me with many opportunities to develop my knowledge with my best interests at heart, which I am appreciative for.



Brushstrokes' Knit and Natter group will now be meeting on Friday mornings from 10.30, starting from 3rd May. We hope you can join us :)

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).
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:



Charity no. 512992

Parish of St Philip Neri



FareShare FoodCloud



INFANT
JESUS
SISTERS



Charity
no.
234216



LOTTERY FUNDED