



A Special Day at the Café

Huge thanks to Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley, for visiting Brushstrokes on Friday 15th September during our Community Café. Together with Andy Quinn, CEO of Father Hudson's Care and Fr. Erasmus, parish priest of St Philip Neri Catholic Church, Smethwick, the Archbishop met and talked with diners as well as enjoyed a meal himself. He later presented certificates of recognition to Brushstrokes' Community Café volunteers.

Thank you to all involved in making the afternoon very special.



Contact us:

Brushstrokes
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



Birmingham City Council



open college network
WEST MIDLANDS



Messenger

October 2017



Brushstrokes PRS Support Worker, Megan (right) with service user, Fatumata and her little daughter Aicha looking very smart in her brand new school uniform, on her first day at school. Brushstrokes wishes all children going back to school this year a happy, safe and productive new term.

Congratulations to Harbans and Rajinder for not only gaining Entry 2 and Entry 1 passes with ESB Speaking and Listening exams at Brushstrokes but also obtaining their Leave to Remain in the UK. Here they are pictured with Brushstrokes Support Worker, Louise.



Sincere thanks to Ann Cornford for her very kind donation of soft toys which will be distributed to families in need.

Sandwell Council Advice Surgeries at Brushstrokes

Sandwell Council is running a series of fortnightly housing/neighbourhood advice clinics at Brushstrokes on Fridays between 1200 and 1300. The council officer will try to help with the following issues:

- Housing
- School admissions
- Social care
- General enquiries



The sessions will run on these Fridays:

29th September 2017
13th October 2017
27th October 2017
10th November 2017
24th November 2017

All are welcome.

Brushstrokes Awards Presentation

Brushstrokes was happy to host its annual ESOL awards presentation on Wednesday 13th September 2017. Certificates were presented by Andy Quinn, CEO of Father Hudson's Care. Thank you to all teachers and teaching assistants who make real differences to people's lives and a massive Well Done to all Brushstrokes learners!



Many thanks to Martin, Brushstrokes' Volunteer Coordinator, for leading the catering volunteer team at the Community Café every Friday. Martin's time in the café has now come to an end due to funding restrictions but Kathy, our Cooking Champion, will coordinate activities from now on. Martin's cheerful energy will be missed but in Kathy and the wonderful group of volunteers the café is in very safe hands.

The Community Café is open to all members of the community and operates on Fridays between 1200 and 1400. All are welcome. Call Brushstrokes on 0121 565 2234 for more information.



THANK YOU

To Wolverhampton Print Company for fitting smart new signs at Brushstrokes.

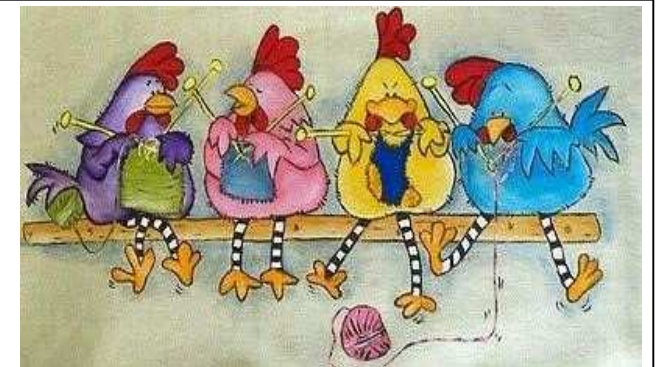
To all our brilliant volunteers who have helped services to be maintained during a very busy start to the autumn.

To Mike and Patricia, for 15 years' voluntary service as ESOL teachers at Brushstrokes. Best wishes from all at Brushstrokes for your retirement.

Sincere congratulations and thanks to Brushstrokes Administration Volunteer Muhammad for gaining a trial employment position with a Birmingham firm of accountants.



Melica, with Brushstrokes sewing tutor volunteer, Sara, shows off her embroidery handiwork skills. Sara runs a 'Knit and Natter' group every Thursday from 10am till 12pm and says the class provides a welcome oasis of calm for people who may be feeling isolated during the week. Thank you for all your hard work at Brushstrokes, Sara, and well done Melica!



Do you care about the future of your community? Are you interested in learning new skills?

You could be our **COMMUNITY RESEARCHER!**

We're offering **FREE** training to people who love where they live and see the potential in their community.

Community Research Training 4th & 5th October 2017, 9.30 am to 3.00 pm
Summerfield Community Centre
Please contact us to book a place!

What is a Community Researcher? A Community Researcher is someone who connects with those in the community who usually have no say in the policy and development of an area. They will be trained to conduct research in topics and themes that are important to their own communities. What's involved?

- Free accredited training in researching your local community - commit as much or as little time as you can.
- Help shape your city and neighbourhood - help us understand what people think about new developments in the area, like the Midland Metropolitan Hospital and Icknield Port Loop.
- Work together with an experienced team from University of Birmingham - we will provide the training, help and support you need.
- Further learning and study available with University of Birmingham should you choose.
- Opportunities to earn some income once training is completed

