



WELCOME.

We are pleased to announce that we have had a number of new volunteers join us at Brushstrokes.

A warm welcome to all our new volunteers who have been cleared through head office. Congratulations go to **Mohammad Butt** and **Asha Gharu** who are helping with our reception and office duties, **Claudia Antici** who is helping with our Community Café, and

Stephen Hardman who is helping with our ESOL classes and work club.

All have completed their inductions and are welcomed into our 'Family Of Volunteers'.

Martin McNally (Volunteer Co-ordinator)



Well done to Mohammed and Nigel for completing a Money Management training course at Brushstrokes earlier this year. The session, run by Janet Mylchreest, Financial Capability Trainer of Citizen's Advice, Sandwell, covered topics such as budgeting, debt management and bill paying.

Thank you to Janet and all at Citizen's Advice, Sandwell. For further training Janet can be contacted on 07494 159038.

Use It

Do you have a professional health-related qualification from abroad? Do you have the right to work in the UK? Do you live in Sandwell, Ladywood or Cape Hill?

If you need help in identifying barriers to health-related employment in the UK and would like to discuss potential opportunities please contact Loreta at Brushstrokes: 0121 565 2234.



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:



Brushstrokes Messenger

September 2017



- Brilliant teachers
- Relevant lessons
- Useful learning
- Stupendous students
- Happy classes
- Scintillating activities
- Terrific atmosphere
- Range of levels
- Outstanding resources
- Knowledgeable assistants
- Equality for all
- Successful results

ESOL Registration at Brushstrokes 2017

Once again Brushstrokes invites students to register for ESOL classes for 2017/2018.

To register for ESOL at Brushstrokes you will need to bring:
£10 registration fee (not applicable to those in receipt of asylum seeker support)
Some form of ID (passport, ID card, birth certificate, etc.)

A big thank you to Jane, ESOL Coordinator, and all the volunteer ESOL teachers and teaching assistants that make such a difference to people's lives through language learning.

We were very pleased at Brushstrokes to recently host Oladimeji Moyegun, an MSc student from the University of Birmingham, working on a thesis entitled 'Living and Health Conditions of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in England, United Kingdom: a case study of Sandwell.'

Ola very graciously included Brushstrokes in his thesis acknowledgments and also sent the email below to Dave and Martin:

May I kindly say a big thank you to you and the entire staff and volunteers of the Brushstrokes Sandwell project for the opportunity and immense support giving to me during the period of my dissertation within your organisation. It was a period of great experience from which I have learnt a lot and I am appreciative of the great work and support that charitable organisations like yours render to displaced and vulnerable people within our society. I wish the government would be more supportive and continue to render necessary funding to support projects like yours which works towards the improvement of the lives of vulnerable and less advantaged people within our communities. Thank you again for your support.





Thank you to Fatmire (Resources Assistant), Sally (Resources Coordinator) and Henna (Resources Helper) who, alongside other Resources Volunteers, Costacia and Mary, work hard each week to ensure that those in most need receive fresh, nutritious food from Brushstrokes.



IELTS at Brushstrokes



As part of the UseIt Project, Health professionals have been attending workshops at Brushstrokes over the summer to help them prepare for the academic IELTS exam. IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is an English language proficiency test for higher education and professional registration. Classes included doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, an eye surgeon, a pathologist and two dentists. People commented on how useful the workshops have been and we hope to continue supporting people with IELTS over the coming months.

Jane Alsop, Brushstrokes ESOL Coordinator



Throughout August 2017 Sara, a valuable volunteer, ran a series of basic hand-sewing sessions at Brushstrokes. Activities included embroidery as well as discovering and sharing one another's craft skills.

Meleqe from Albania said that the group was very enjoyable as she met new people and loved doing the tasks.

Junior, from Zimbabwe said that the sewing group really helped her to focus her thoughts and attention on something new following a difficult year of ill-health and that her eye-hand coordination was rapidly improving.

Krafty chat & Knit & Natter

Sara will be continuing with craft activities on Thursdays at 1000 — 1200 from Thursday 14th September 2017. If you would like to join her new 'Krafty Chat & Knit and Natter' group please contact Brushstrokes on 0121 565 2234. Many thanks to Sara for your creative efforts in helping others at Brushstrokes.

On Friday 25th August 2017 Brushstrokes welcomed 12 young people from the National Citizenship Scheme. The youngsters visited as part of their community placement and assisted in the Community Café and by helping with clothing resources.

Thank you to Laura, Arash, Hanisha, Ellie, Shania, Amahd, Rohula, Rone, Rhys, Alex, Noah, Rebecca, Mortaca and all concerned with this enterprise.

The NCS has been established to enable 15 to 17 year olds to live away from home for a short period whilst taking part in social action projects and building skills for work and life. To enquire further please visit their website: www.ncsyes.co.uk

