



**Mayoral Honour for Brushstrokes**  
Brushstrokes Community Project is immensely proud and thankful to have been chosen as one of the Mayor of Sandwell's chosen charities for 2019/20. Dr Ann Jaron, who has represented the Abbey ward on Sandwell Council for 23 years, was elected as the new mayor of the borough in May 2019 and immediately announced that

her two chosen mayoral charities for the year would be Sandwell Young Carers and Brushstrokes Community Project. Pictured right are Dave Newall, Project Manager of Brushstrokes, Mayor Ann Jaron, and Jo Watters, Head of Community Projects at Father Hudson's Care. Jo says, 'Brushstrokes Community Project is honoured to be chosen as one of the Lord Mayor's charities of the year 2019. We have been based in Smethwick for 20 years now and are fully committed to supporting communities across Sandwell.'



Happy Eid to all our Islamic friends and supporters.

Thank you to all who help Brushstrokes maintain an effective presence in our community. It is an amazing (and often very moving) phenomena to witness people from every cultural and social background collaborating to positively affect the lives of vulnerable people. Our ethos has always been to 'Welcome the Stranger' and regardless of personal beliefs or values we find that all people respond to the human ideals of hospitality, respect and kindness. No person ever had any say in the location or circumstances of their birth and it is good to humbly keep in mind the old adage, 'Today you; tomorrow me'. NC, Centre Coordinator



Grateful thanks to Oscott seminarians, Yemane and Oliver, who have now completed their voluntary placement visiting isolated people on behalf of Brushstrokes Community Project. Yemane said that being at Brushstrokes 'Improved my Confidence, especially by talking to different people from all cultures and backgrounds. Everything was enjoyable for me.' Oliver added, 'Encountering different people and hearing their stories was a great privilege — people have such great stories. Thank you for all the great work you do for so many people'. Pictured left to right are Martin, Catherine, Yemane, Oliver, Lukano and Hortense.

## Brushstrokes Annual General Meeting 2019

Thank you to the 32 guests plus staff members who attended the Brushstrokes AGM on the 21st May. The meeting was opened by Jo Watters, Chair of the Management Committee, and the theme of 'Different Journeys — Shared Future' was introduced by Brushstrokes Manager, Dave Newall, who gave a review of the outstanding work delivered by the project over the past 12 months as well as an overview of new directions. Mary-Rose, Sonya and Jane spoke of how their studies, research and work in teaching English at Brushstrokes were literally life changing — both for their students and for themselves, and Marisol spoke very eloquently about her experience of assisting vulnerable people by being an Asylum Guide. We were also extremely touched to hear about the journeys of Abisola and Habib, who, with support from Brushstrokes, are moving forward in their lives with new dignity and hope. Thank you to all who contributed to this positive insight into the work of our centre. Jo responded with the following acknowledgement: 'Thank you from the management committee and me for all of your hard work in making the AGM yesterday such a success. You and the volunteers are what makes Brushstrokes such a wonderful and inspirational project; thank you for your dedication and commitment.'



During the AGM we were visited by Toby Railton and Amanda Amass of Barratt West Midlands (Halesowen). They kindly presented Brushstrokes Community project with a cheque for £1000 to go towards new signage. We are very grateful to all at Barratts for their support and especially to Amanda who has long been a friend of Brushstrokes, often delivering donated goods to us. Thank you to all involved. Pictured above (left to right) are Toby, Amanda, Dave and Jo.

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## Images from the Brushstrokes Annual General Meeting

Left are Lukano, Habib and Anwar.

Below are Anwar and Nigel.

Then clockwise are powerful speakers, Abisola, Mary-Rose, Marisol, Jane and Sonia.

Thank you to all contributors who generously took the time to present their thoughts on the work of Brushstrokes.

thank you



My name is Janet and I'm a volunteer ESOL teacher at Brushstrokes. I first taught here in 2015/16 and really enjoyed it but got busy with other things and was away from Brushstrokes for a couple of years. I started teaching here again last September and it's

great to be back – everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The students in my class are lively and keen to learn, so it's a pleasure to work with them and help them improve their English. *Thank you, Janet, for your invaluable help.*

Many congratulations to Funke and Petre for passing their ESOL Entry 3 Reading exams at Brushstrokes. Well done for all your hard work.





Pictured are Brushstrokes café helpers Minthe and Miguel (cheekily being photobombed by Martin). Minthe is currently being supported by Brushstrokes and assists us by helping out in the Friday Community Café. He says, 'Brushstrokes is my home. I don't have any other place to go to other than Brushstrokes. Had they had accommodation of their own for destitute people and those sleeping rough like myself, I am sure Brushstrokes would have accommodated me. They are my family and I feel at home when I am at Brushstrokes.' We are very happy to be involved in Minthe's progress and wish him well for the future.

### Volunteering Week (3rd June — 7th June)

Volunteering Week, hosted by Sandwell Volunteer Bureau, saw a range of certificates honouring Brushstrokes volunteers serving in our ESOL, Resources and Catering

facilities, being awarded.

- Long service awards were presented to Anne, Parveen, Maureen, Vivien and Mary.
- Food Safety certificates were presented to Halima, Banaz, Fatmire, Hortense, Parveen, Nabilla, Diane, Seema, Kathy and Lucy.
- Advice and Outreach Course completion certificates were given to Petelo, Lorraine, Hawar, Julie, Saban and Melonie.

Huge thanks to all our volunteers without whom we would not be able to prove an effective force in enhancing the lives of vulnerable people across our borough.



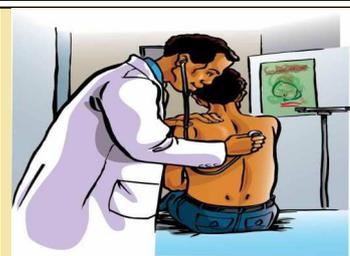
Congratulations to Fatima who received her UK Citizenship status recently. Here she is below, with her family, receiving her certificate from the Mayor of Sandwell, Ann Jaron.



Pictured clockwise are (from top left) Mary, Lucy, Parveen, Lorraine, Hawar, Petelo, Steve, Hortense, Anne, Jane and Martin.



Pictured clockwise are (from above left) Banaz, Martin, Mel, Lukano, Julie, Dave, Nabilla, Seema, Fatmire, Lucy, Haleema, Hortense, Kathy and Martin. Well done to everybody.



## Latent Tuberculosis

TB Awareness session at  
 Brushstrokes Community Project  
 2.30pm — 3.30pm Thursday 27th June  
 All are Welcome



Thank you to all people who have donated baby items to Brushstrokes. Our resources team make up new-born baby packs containing infant clothes, nappies, creams etc. which are then given out to expectant mothers. Pictured receiving Baby Packs from Lucy (left) are Clare — Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Health Visitor, and Godfred — who is completing his second year as a student nurse at the University of Wolverhampton.



Please note that ESOL classes at Brushstrokes end on Thursday 27th June. Enrolment 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).  
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](mailto:info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)

Website: [www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk](http://www.brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)

### Brushstrokes receives support from:



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FareShare FoodCloud



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