

Brushstrokes Messenger

father
Hudson's
Care

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

August 2021

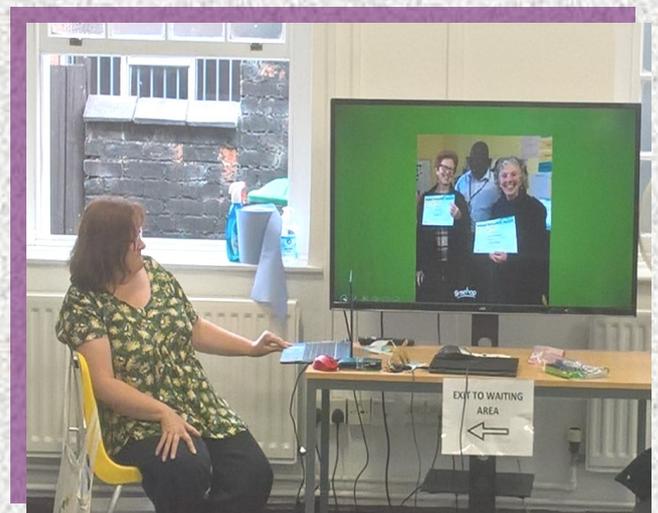
Nicolas Barré

**It's not
goodbye
It's au revoir**



In June 2021 we said, au revoir (but not goodbye) to volunteer teacher Vivien Heenan. Vivien has

taught ESOL at Brushstrokes for an amazing 16 years. During that time, she has taught all ESOL levels including ESOL for pregnancy, literacy and a class for Spanish speakers. When the ESOL Coordinator left in 2009, Vivien was asked to take on the job "until the end of term". Two years later she finally returned to being a volunteer! Vivien has been a totally committed and dedicated teacher, driving from Stafford two mornings a week (come rain, shine or traffic jams). She has been a foundation stone of Brushstrokes, loved by students and staff alike. Vivien is fluent in Spanish, Italian and French so, thankfully, she won't be leaving us altogether but will be coming back to volunteer her services when required. Vivien was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Fatmire, Brushstrokes Resources Assistant. Fatmire started as a volunteer the same time as Vivien and was one of Vivien's first students. Our Housing Adviser, Hawar, was always one of Vivien's students and talked about how she learnt so much more than just English from Vivien. Vivien's students also wanted to thank her for all the hard work and for being such an excellent teacher. So we say, thank you Vivien and au revoir but definitely not goodbye.



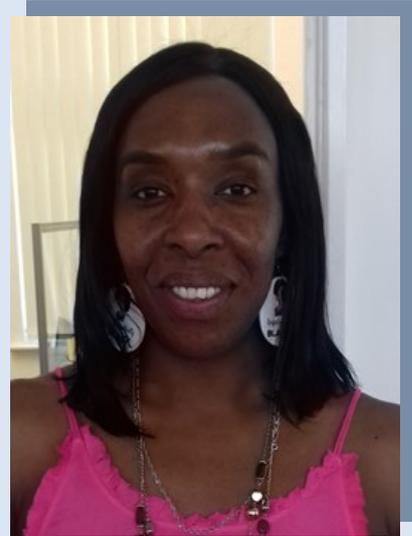
A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER ADVICE TEAM !



Arub Syed



Seema Abdelfatah



Camiquea Bryce-Jordon

We are truly blessed by having so many wonderful volunteers. This month we would like to say a big THANK YOU to Camiquea, Seema, Arub and Success who have offered their free time to support our advice team here at Brushstrokes.

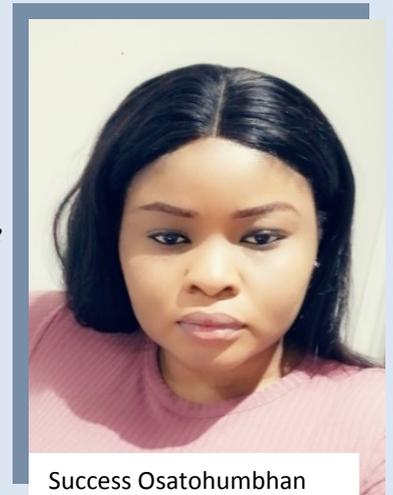
Brushstrokes were in the front line again offering assistance to those needing urgent help to apply for their “Settled Status” . There was a huge demand for help as the deadline for applications was the end of June. These volunteers responded to the call for urgent assistance helping our advice staff to see as many clients as possible.

“I would like to say the advice team, reception staff and the volunteers have been amazing and without them we would not have been able to assist the number of clients we did and send their applications before the deadline.”

Senior Advisor

This was a very stressful time for many clients and the whole staff and team of volunteers coped tremendously.

Well done everyone.



Success Osatohumbhan

Martin McNally
Volunteer Coordinator



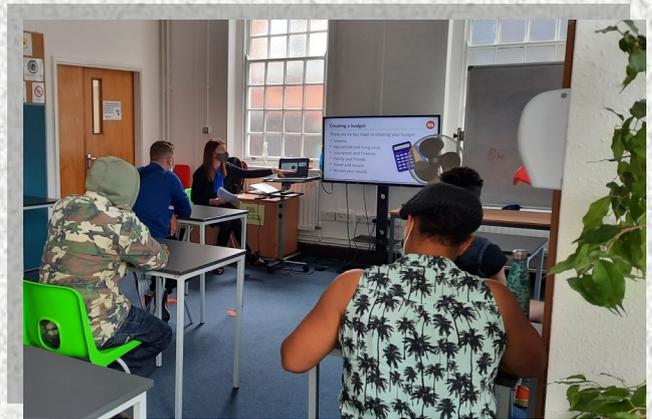
COVID Vaccination session

Tuesday 27th July 2021, we had another successful vaccination clinic at Brushstrokes, and 29 clients, received AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccination to protect themselves against Covid-19.

Nationwide Budgeting Session : Huge thanks to Emma Simmonds from Nationwide who came to deliver a Budgeting session for our service users to help build skills and confidence in managing their money.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan attended Brushstrokes Community Project during these difficult times and is providing his continuing support to the organisation and the community.

Deportation - Lewin Williams is an elderly gentleman from Jamaica who came to Brushstrokes Community project for immigration advice He is suffering from cancer and facing deportation. We are supporting him to remain in the UK to continue his cancer treatment. (



The holy festival of **Eid al-Adha**, also known as the 'festival of sacrifice' or Greater Eid, is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic or lunar calendar. Also known as Eid Qurban or Qurban Bayarami, it marks the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage



Eid al-Adha is the latter of the two official holidays celebrated within Islam. It honours the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God's command. Before Abraham could sacrifice his son, however, God provided a lamb to sacrifice instead



24th July 2021 was the last day of the Romanian School Nicolae Iorga Birmingham. The children celebrated this day by wearing the Romanian Top's "IA" and at the end they had a surprise from the Romanian association Romani Uniti din Anglia (R.U.D.A.) where they invited a Romanian police woman Simona Zetu that works at West Midlands Police, to speak and present them the police uniform and gave a speech on what the police do for the local community.



Pictured: Mustafa, Halima in blue, and her daughters outside “AMA Restaurant” Cape Hill, Smethwick

Congratulations!

Volunteer’s Family Opens Restaurant.

We wish Mustafa and Halima Ismaeel every success with their new Restaurant “Ama” serving Kurdish and Turkish speciality food.

Halima has been a volunteer with Brushstrokes for nearly five years and has been of great assistance in the setting up and running of our Community Café.

Halima and her husband Mustafa have been very busy and prior to Covid the family had extensively refurbished premises in Cape Hill to create a warm and unique restaurant experience serving freshly prepared Kurdish / Turkish cuisine.

Halima confirmed “Ama is named after Mustafa’s mother who remains in Kurdistan.” Halima and Mustafa and their family have created a beautiful Kurdish themed restaurant offering a unique experience. “Ama” should be very proud.

We wish them every success.

Jane reaches another milestone



Congratulations to Jane Alsop on your 10 year service award, you have been such significant part of our team and we couldn't imagine our workplace without you.

Thank you for your many wonderful years of Service at Brushstrokes.



David Newall, Jane Alsop with her award and Andy Quinn the CEO of Father Hudson’s Care



With our

Community Café

here in Smethwick.

- .Meet new people.**
- .Improve your skills.**
- .Serve the local community.**
- .Offer a Free Lunch and a warm Place of Welcome**

We are a local charity based on the High Street in Smethwick offering hope, support and a place of welcome to all. If you have a couple of hours per week to spare and are interested in helping those in great need

then please contact :

Martin McNally 0121 565 2234 or email

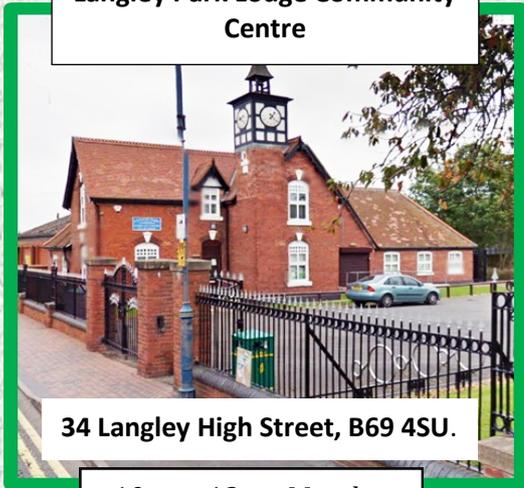
Martin@Brushstrokesandwell.org.uk

Brushstrokes Community Project

253 High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 3NJ

Beginners ESOL class

Langley Park Lodge Community Centre



34 Langley High Street, B69 4SU.

10am - 12pm Monday

Starting 13th September 2021

Contact: **0121-565-2234 (Brushstrokes)**

or come along on the 13th September.

Brushstrokes Community Project

Strengthening and supporting refugees and migrants across Sandwell, West Birmingham and beyond



Are you an ESOL teacher?

Do you have a CELTA or TESOL qualification?

Would you like to expand your teaching experience?

Do you want to make a difference?

Could you spare a couple of hours a week to volunteer?

Brushstrokes Community Project is looking for voluntary ESOL teachers to help the ever increasing number of people needing to learn English. Based in Smethwick, we have been teaching English to refugees and asylum seekers for over 20 years. Our courses range from Foundation to Entry 3.

You will receive support from a qualified and experienced ESOL Coordinator and work with a friendly team of staff and volunteers.

For further information

Message: 07876898160

Email: jane@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

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:



Charity no.
512992

Parish of St Philip Neri



Charity no.
234216



Sisters of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

LOTTERY FUNDED