



Brushstrokes

Community Project

March 2023



As you all have heard, my time with Brushstrokes winds down in a couple of days, and my last day is Friday 10th February 2023. I still can't believe it, but I just wanted to let you know how much I've enjoyed working with each one of you and very fortunate to have been a part of dedicated and committed team for the past 4 years.

I have had the privilege of serving in this great organisation and have a great fondness of it, and I feel this is definitely bitter sweet news, but I'm super excited about my next move and I will greatly miss each of you. I will never forget how much we have all come a long way and worked together with our key stakeholders/partners to accomplish the diverse projects to integrate our needy members of our society into the UK wider community.

A big Thank you to our key partners for supporting our work throughout the years !

I'm still available at Brushstrokes tying up all the loose ends, however, should you require any information or just a chat, but please feel free to get in touch and I look forward to staying connected and hearing what you all continue to accomplish in your individual projects in the future.



with love,

Lukano Omunson



Thanks for organising the film screening of Capernaum on Friday 3rd March

The film hit like a freight train and a must watch film on why people cannot claim asylum in neighbouring countries.

The lead roles were played by refugees.

Not a dry eye in the house, nor should there have been.

Thanks Chra for the recommendation and Bryan for organising.

Audience reaction here
<https://youtu.be/BLQCob8vy5Q>

HOPE AGAINST THE ODDS

AFTER SUFFERING PERSONAL LOSS AND BEING LOST IN DIFFICULT HARD TO DECIPHER IMMIGRATION RULES.

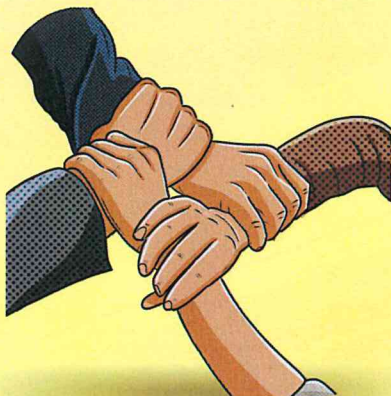
INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN WAS GRANTED TO ONE OF OUR CLIENTS.

CAMIQUEA WHO HAS BEEN RECENTLY APPOINTED ON THE IMMIGRATION ADVICE TEAM SAID.

"THIS CASE MADE ME CRY, NOW WE SMILE."

FOR MANY OF THE PEOPLE WE WORK WITH, THEY NEVER GIVE UP HOPE AND REMAIN STRONG IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

A GIFT AND LESSON FOR US ALL.





Our Welcome Wednesdays sessions have got off to a great start in 2023. Copious amounts of table tennis, table football and chess have been played, mugs of teas and tasty cakes have been enjoyed, and there has been lots of sharing of cultures. This is a great environment for people to relax, get to know new people and get out the house. Come down any Wednesday 5-7pm and join us at Welcome Wednesdays! Everyone's welcome and the more the merrier!



**WELCOME TO
WELCOME
WEDNESDAYS!**



A day in the life of brushstrokes

1 year on from the start of the war in Ukraine

A lovely Ukrainian woman started to cry as she misses her husband, stuck in a war they never asked for.

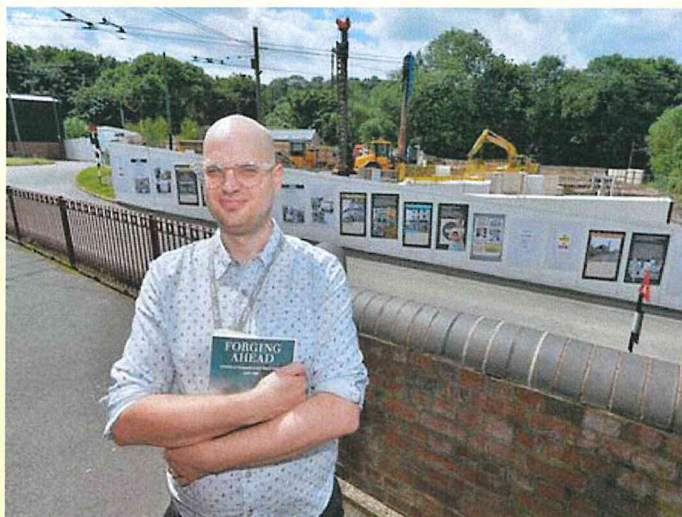
A Jamaican worker hugged her.

A Russian mum walked in and said hello with her son,
They know each other and are friends.

And Afghan is helping the Ukrainian woman in her life, here in the UK.

We are the many they are the few

HISTORY TALK - COME AND LEARN ABOUT SMETHWICK!



With the dual purpose of increasing our service users' knowledge of the rich history where they live, and the bringing together of different corners of our diverse local community, we have the privilege of inviting local historian Simon Briercliffe to Brushstrokes. Simon, who is an author and historical researcher for the Black Country Living Museum, (which was recently visited by our Afghan and Ukrainian families), will be providing us with a bespoke talk for Brushstrokes about the history of Smethwick. The talk is taking place on Wednesday 1st February at 7pm, and is open to everyone. Come and learn about the interesting place that is Smethwick!



Grab some popcorn and enjoy a film with us: We're delighted to tell you that we are continuing our collaboration with Black Country Touring to show more films at Brushstrokes this year. As with films shown in the past, we encourage our service users to recommend titles that they'd like to watch at our film evenings. We've shown a range of films to tap into some of the different nationalities represented at Brushstrokes, and hope to continue this going forwards. Everyone's welcome to come along and if you'd like to make a recommendation, drop in and have a word with Bryan



A TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SMETHWICK



BY HISTORIAN SIMON BRIERCLIFFE

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY AT 7PM

FREE ENTRY

BRUSHSTROKES, 253 HIGH STREET,
SMETHWICK, B66 3NJ



SCAN ME



BRUSHSTROKES FILM EVENINGS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Contact Bryan on 07827 258 680 or

bryan@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk if you would like to recommend a film for us to show at our film evenings.



COME AND PLAY FOOTBALL 🏈

WITH BENSON COMMUNITY PROJECT &
BRUSHSTROKES



HADLEY STADIUM, WILSON ROAD,
SMETHWICK, B66 4NL

MONDAYS 4:30 - 6PM

SESSIONS START MONDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2023

ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME
CONTACT BRYAN (07827 258 680) IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

In partnership with Benson Community Project, Brushstrokes will be offering weekly football sessions from January. These will be taking place at Hadley Stadium, Smethwick, on Mondays at 4:40-6pm.

Unsurprisingly, there has been significant demand from the Brushstrokes community for regular football sessions which have historically been a great way for integration and had positive impacts on mental and physical health.

Thanks to kind donations from the Brushspokes community, we'll be providing our footballers with sporting apparel and boots and we can't wait to get on the pitch!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STUDYING???

COME TO BRUSHSTROKES AND SPEAK TO BECCI ABOUT STUDYING AT FIRCCROFT COLLEGE



WHERE: **BRUSHSTROKES**, 253 HIGH STREET, SMETHWICK, B66 3NJ

WHEN: **THURSDAY 9TH MARCH**

BECCI WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM **11AM - 3PM** TO DISCUSS

ANYTHING RELATED TO STUDYING AT FIRCCROFT COLLEGE

TASTER DAYS TO GET
BACK INTO EDUCATION

RESIDENTIAL COURSES
AVAILABLE

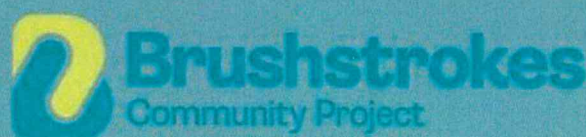
BUSINESS
SKILLS

SUPPORT WITH
TRAVEL COSTS!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DIGITAL
SKILLS

SPECIFIC COURSES FOR ASYLUM
SEEKERS & REFUGEES



BRUSHSTROKES BIKE PROJECT



We were delighted to provide a bike to one of our service users, who was really pleased with his new acquisition. The bike was donated by a local family and is now helping Jamal access a range of services, including Brushstrokes. We're planning led rides with British Cycling for this year, so if anyone out there would like to join our cycling community, just get in touch!



EVERYONE
deserves a
VOICE



Members of the **Service User Panel** and **Asylum Guides project** play a crucial role in helping our service users.

WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN HOW WE RUN THESE SERVICES SO COME ALONG AND ENJOY A FRESH WAFFLE!

Wednesday 1st Feb
10.30am – 11.30am
@Brushstrokes



Please contact Bryan or Abqa to RSVP

CYCLE MAINTENANCE CLASSES



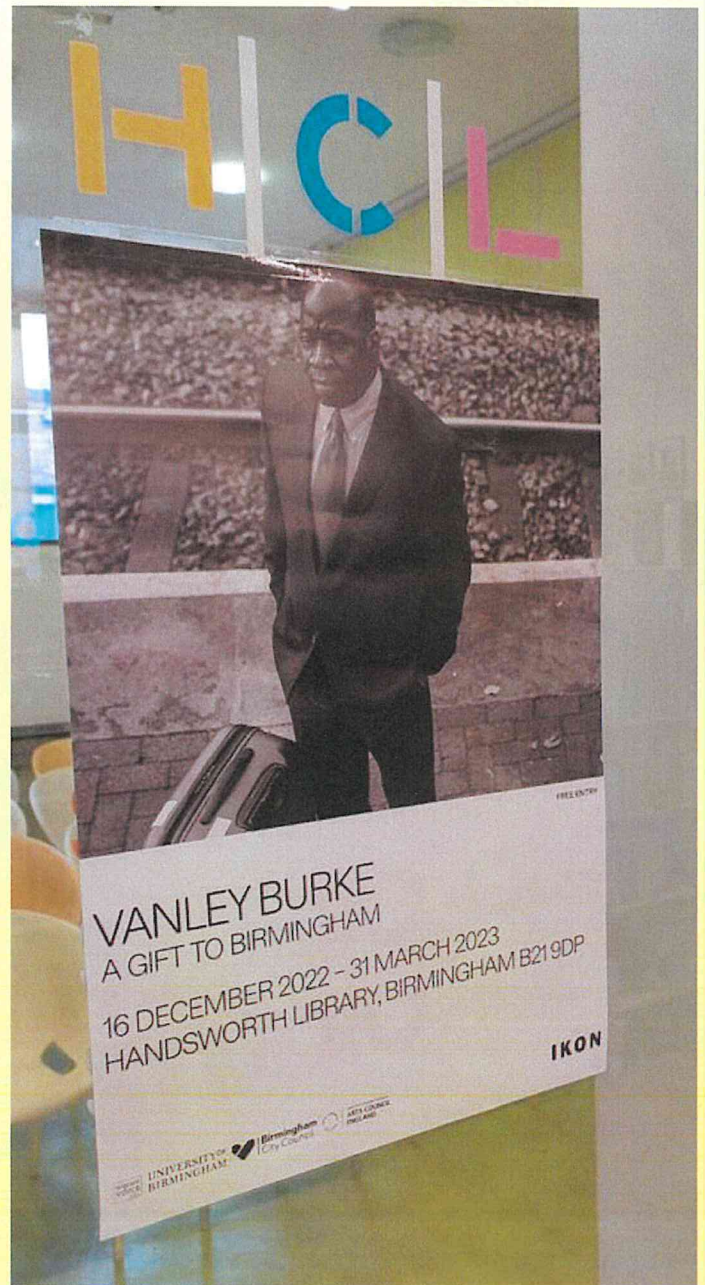
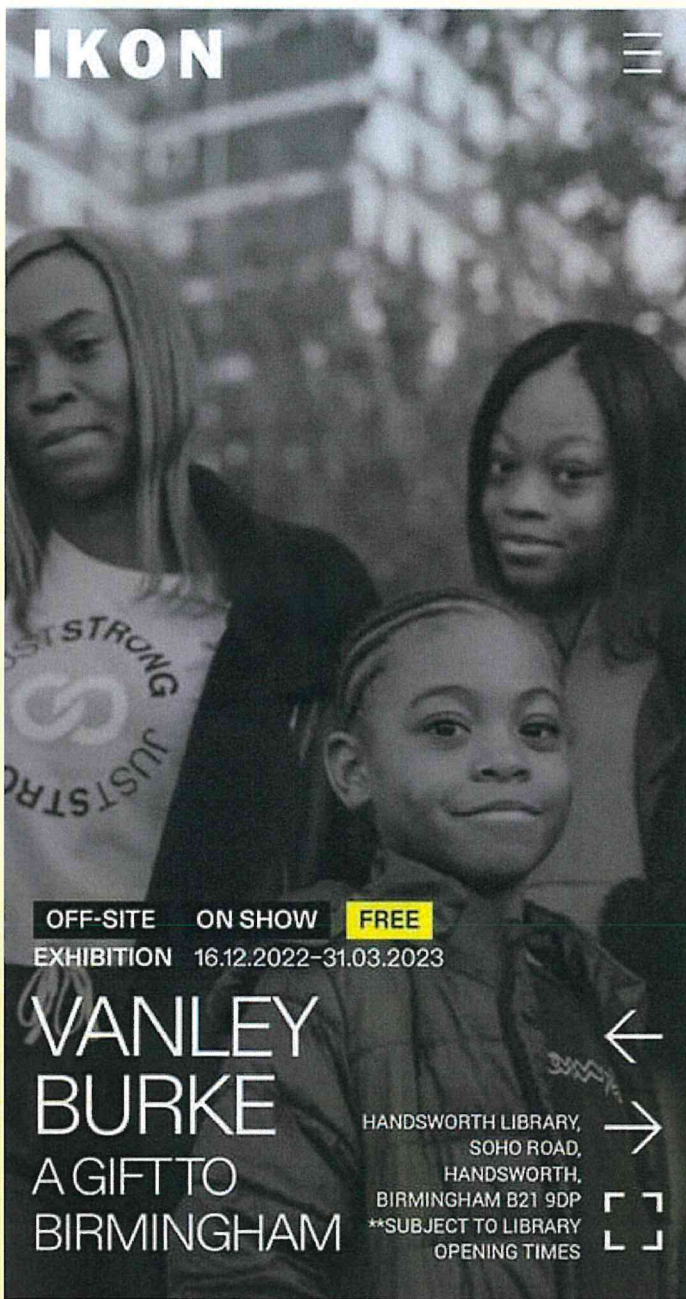
EVERY MONDAY
FROM MONDAY 30TH JANUARY UNTIL
MONDAY 20TH MARCH

1-4PM

BRUSHSTROKES - SMETHWICK - B66 3NJ

ANY QUERIES - BRYAN 07827 258680





Vanley Burke a gift to Birmingham visits Handsworth library.

Staff and service users are featured in this exhibition first showcased at the ikon gallery.

If you are local to Handsworth pop in to have a look and join the library! They are free and a great place to relax

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Albert Einstein

(1879-1955. Theoretical physicist



**Immigration & Asylum
Drop In Advice
Mondays 9.30 till 12.30
Benson Hub Benson Road
B18 5TD**

****Term time only**






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AND TEXT YES



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www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell



BECOME AN ASYLUM GUIDE VOLUNTEER

Are you interested in helping Asylum Seekers? Would you like to learn what more can be done to help them? Then you may be the ideal person to become an Asylum Guide Volunteer!!



Why not come along to our Asylum Guide induction on

Thursday 5th January and Wednesday 11th January
between 10am - 2pm.

Where we can explain how you can play a part in helping those that need some guidance.

(Refreshments will be provided)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ATTEND
Please contact
abqa@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk
or call 07570346848



Struggling with your rent?




LET US HELP YOU!




If you're struggling with your rent then we're here to help.
Call us on 0121 737 5148 for advice



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

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