

# Brushstrokes Messenger

Father  
**Hudson's**  
Care

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

Nicolas Barré

May 2021

## Vaccination

Tuesday 11th May 2021 at Brushstrokes Community Project, Covid 19 Vaccination in collaboration with the NHS, proud to announce 17 of our service users received the AstraZeneca vaccination to protect themselves and members of their community.

The recipients were those who were not registered with a GP or who were particularly nervous about receiving their jab. We are planning a further Vaccination Clinic at the end of June.



Entrance door



Waiting area



Entrance door



Waiting area



I've had my AstraZeneca vaccination



I've had my AstraZeneca vaccination



Henryk having his AstraZeneca vaccination

By protecting yourself you are protecting others



## I have had my Vaccine...



Brushstrokes Community Project Team



From top Left ; Fatmire, Lucy, Ionut



Top Left; Martin and Lorraine



Top Left; Valentina and Chra



Top left ; Lukano, Sonia, Claire And Hawar



From top left; Anna, Salman, Genna

Dave Newall Brushstrokes Project Manager and Hawar Amin Housing adviser being presented with a cheque by Emma Simons and Eliz Shefik from the Nationwide for the Safe and Sound in Sandwell housing project. The project provides housing information and advice to new arrivals in the Borough and aims to increase community understanding of housing rights and responsibilities.



From to left; Hawar Amin, Dave Newall, Eliz Shefik and Emma Simons



Thank you to our Jesuit Novices Eamonn and Mikhail for sorting out a large Delivery of food from the Black Country Food Bank.

We shall miss them and wish them every blessing for their Pilgrimage in June.



We would like to welcome Marta Sobilo, who has joined the EUSS advisors team.

Members of Brushstrokes Service User Panel at the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May - Saed , Sayed, Saeed, Dilshad, Sarbaz, Esther and Edirin with Lukano and

### **New Brushstrokes Service User panel**

As an organisation we exist to welcome and work with those from new communities within Sandwell. We try to ensure that our services reflect the needs of those who are seeking asylum , refugees, EU nationals and other recent migrants and conduct regular focus groups, surveys , research and in work with other local community organisations such as our friends from Ileys, EWAcic, R.U.D.A, Emconet and others.

However, we recognise the need for those who use our service to have a clearer role in helping to shape and develop the work of Brushstrokes and for us stand with and support the development of a stronger voice for new communities who can articulate the needs and aspirations of new communities themselves. In response we have established a service use group and benefited from Refugee Action's good practice and partnership teams work on Experts by Experience, part of the Asylum early action programme.

Since January 10 individuals from different communities have come together to form a service user panel. The group has met four times and at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May elected Esther, as it's Chair, and Sarbaz, as Vice Chair. Members recognise the opportunity this group is creating to enable them to have a greater voice, one of the members states

*' ..... this group would be a medium or link between us and those who give us services, and this link will help us access services from other providers and boost our confidence and self esteem.....'*

The group is meeting monthly and would welcome additional members - for further information please contact [Info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk](mailto:Info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)

## ESOL

### classes



### We're Back!!!

Students are coming back to ESOL classes at Brushstrokes. We still have ESOL lessons online and OET and IELTS will also continue online, but now we have a small number of students in the classroom. It's great to see everyone in person again – even if we are all wearing masks!



For some students, it isn't possible to come back to Brushstrokes. They may have small children or live too far away. Some intrepid ESOL teachers teach a combined class of students on Zoom and in the classroom!



We are very grateful to Smethwick Baptist Church for enabling us to hold 4 classes a week for 15 new students.

## Brushstrokes Community Project

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

**Sorry, all our  
ESOL classes are  
FULL**

**Please contact us again at  
the end of August  
Enrolment 1st—3rd September**

### ESOL classes in Langley

10.00 – 12.00 Monday

Starting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Numbers limited

Text: 07876898160

Free



We still have places in our short ESOL Foundation course at Langley. The course will run until July. Anyone interested can contact Jane or Sonia:

[jane@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk](mailto:jane@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)  
[sonia@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk](mailto:sonia@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk)  
or message 07876898160



# Donations



We received a donation of Hand sanitiser bottles and face shields to distribute to our service users from the Masters Foundation on 7th May. Picture is of Murtaza Masters, Dave and Volunteer Saturnin Paterne Ziangbanga Ngban-

Thuria who asked if we had any specific needs as she would like to make a donation. Thuria took on board our requests, and so kindly delivered all of these amazing donations to us. 🍅

Thank you so much Thuria for your support. We are particularly grateful to donors like you who take the time to make contact and find out what we really need 🙏



**Coming up in next months newsletter**

**"We Walk Together"**

The theme for this year is "We Cannot Walk Alone" and our poster shows that we shall walk together in support of the refugee.

Refugee Week we shall be displaying posters, photos and have arranged training on "Modern Day Slavery" and encourage all to make simple acts of kindness.

See: [www.refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone)



14<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021





## Employment Support

Valentina is providing the Employment Support, she is holding one day week session clients who are looking to develop CVs, employment skills and help with job search for refugees/ EU nationals with pre-settled status.

## I'T Classes

**Would you like some help with Basic IT skills?**

*Using the internet for shopping/jobsearch/information*

*Making and receiving video calls (Zoom/WhatsApp/Telegram/Jitsi)*

*Setting up and using email*

*Filling in online forms/applications*

*Making appointments online*



**Appointments available on Fridays with  
sonia@brushstrokesandwell.org.uk, leave your name and  
contact details with any member of the Brushstrokes team.  
Brushstrokes 0121 565 2234**



## Becoming a Volunteer

Volunteering can be a great way to help others, gain experience and to develop yourself.

Making the decision to become a volunteer can be difficult and you might be concerned that volunteering is not the right thing for you to do. This short course is intended to help you make that decision.

Tipton College  
Thursday 1pm - 3pm  
08/06/2021 - 06/07/2021  
Call 0121 557 0837

Or check our website for more information

[www.learnsafl.ac.uk](http://www.learnsafl.ac.uk)



**TIME IS RUNNING OUT  
TO APPLY TO  
THE EU  
SETTLEMENT  
SCHEME  
THE DEADLINE IS  
30 JUNE 2021**



HM Government

Apply now at: [gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](http://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning are providing short access courses for people considering a) volunteering and b) working in care. The courses are free. Information attached.



## Eid Al-Fitr Mubarak to everyone who celebrated

Muslim worshippers around the world are celebrating the festival of Eid al-Fitr, commonly known as Eid, to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan.... Believers will also enjoy large meals with friends and family, and exchange money and gifts - in many countries, Eid al-Fitr is a public holiday.



There are now less than 30 days to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK on or before 31 December 2020, must apply to ensure you can continue to live, work, study and access healthcare after 30 June 2021.

Please check if you need to apply for your children, even if you've already applied for yourself.

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 Apply now at: [gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)

## Contact us:

Brushstrokes Community Project

253 High Street,

Smethwick,

B66 3NJ

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:

