



NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

As the winter season stubbornly continues to extend into the beginning of spring bringing with it ice and snow, it is a good time to think of reasons to be to cheerful.

We have been delighted to share the joy of many of our friends who have received indefinite leave to remain through the legacy resolution process and have some certainty about their future. Brushstrokes is working well with officers from Housing and Welfare Rights to provide a co-ordinated approach to new refugees many needs for practical support and friendly advice.

Times are particularly hard for the many people still waiting to hear about their future and we hope to extend some extra support to them at our weekly drop in where we can share food and conversation. Our first party for people in this tough situation was a

lovely occasion and one we hope to repeat later in the year.

Brushstrokes staff and volunteers had a 'big night out' at the 106th Father Hudson's Annual Ball. We were encouraged and heartened by the warm interest in our project we witnessed from the many people who attended. Our gratitude for the financial contribution it will make to our project in these lean times is much appreciated.



2010 is proving a year of rapid change for Brushstrokes with more refugees and newcomers coming in for support. We hope to rise to the challenge and bring you news of people who have new hope and opportunities as the year moves on.

A highlight in our February calendar is the visit from the new Archbishop of the Birmingham Catholic diocese, Bernard Longley. He is visiting Brushstrokes on February 23rd as part of his tour of Father Hudson's Society projects in Coleshill and across the diocese.

Teresa Clements
Project Manager

WE HAD A PARTY

Friday saw the first of what we hope will become regular get-togethers for our asylum seekers, refugees and their families. Despite yet another downfall of snow, about thirty grown-ups and several children came along to Brushstrokes to enjoy conversation, mu-

sic, games, food and toys at lunchtime on Friday 19th February. |Soup, pizza, dips, quiche and cake proved a success with adults and children alike, and "pin the tail on the donkey" was a great hit with the children.

David Nelson



WE OFFER

- *Counselling Sessions*
- *ESOL classes*
- *Home visiting and Befriending service*
- *Education and Family support*
- *Food and living essentials*
- *Mentoring and Befriending course*
- *Stay and Play sessions*
- *Health Trainer Service*
- *Immigration Advice*

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