



## WHEN EMMAUS BRIGHTON & HOVE WAS 20 ...

What a year 2017 has been for Emmaus Brighton! Thanks to your support, our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary has not only been a year of celebration, but has also seen our Community achieve a host of accomplishments. Here are some of the highlights:



**5** new Companion places were created because of the refurbishment of Manor Cottage. Thanks to our partners at CRASH we will soon be able to offer accommodation for a total of 53 Companions. And our cafe, Revive@emmaus was awarded its top rate 5-star hygiene rating for the sixth year running!



**4** more Companions reached the end of their NVQ courses, providing them with new skills and qualifications to seek work outside the Community.

**3** thousand pounds, generated from our Spring Fair, was donated to Emmaus International, for Solidarity projects around the world. (Because it's not all about us....)

**2** Companions moved on to new lives: Bill, who ran the Companions' catering team for three years, has now gone to live near his family, and Elliot is now living independently and working as a bus driver.

**1** wedding! The Chapmans - Finance Manager Karen and Transport Co-ordinator Chris, an ex-Companion, tied the knot in Thailand and were treated to a wedding breakfast at Emmaus on their return.



### Other special events included:

Our tea party in the Mayor's parlour, where Companions, volunteers, and staff members old and new came together to celebrate our birthday.

An evening with our President Terry Waite, who enraptured the audience in our cafe while our team served a fabulous buffet.



Our Two-Ton Clothing Sale saved a lorry-load of donated clothes from landfill whilst raising money for our Community. These are just some of the amazing things that happened this year, but we couldn't do any of it without you. Please continue to support us in the coming year – we really appreciate it.

**Celebrating 20 years of working together to end homelessness in Brighton & Hove**

## Manor tenants

Did you know that parts of our beautiful Portslade site are actually used by other organisations?

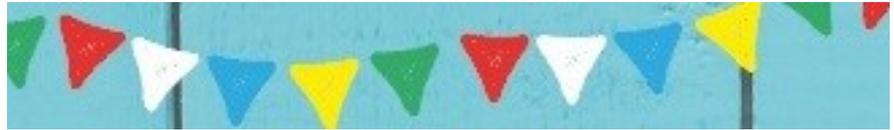
When Emmaus took over the site in 1997, the building that was once the Manor House was deemed unsuitable for accommodation, so was converted into a rambling maze of characterful offices. These rooms are rented to a number of like-minded organisations, all of whom benefit from the picturesque views, the peaceful environment and, of course, the support and services of the other tenants.

Craig Pyke is Service Manager of the Frances Taylor Foundation, a charity that supports vulnerable adults in the community. His staff provide a huge range of services that allow adults with learning disabilities or acquired brain injuries to live as independently as they can, whether the client just requires a couple of hours a week to make sure that bills have been paid and medication is on track, or whether they need someone with them all day to deal with more complex needs. Financed by Brighton & Hove Council, the foundation saves the local community a fortune in supported living costs, as well as providing its clients with dignity and independence. Craig admits that their quirky Grade II listed office doesn't offer all that a purpose-built modern building might, but believes that the warm atmosphere, and being surrounded by people with a similar ethos, more than makes up for it.

Two floors above is local charity, Extratime, who run after-school and holiday clubs for disabled and non-disabled children, encouraging the kind of social inclusion that may not be available for them in the wider community, and providing respite for parents and carers. Whether it's through arts & crafts, soft play, sports, cooking, or trips out, each year Extratime supports around 450 children and young people to have fun, try new things and to socialise. Like the Frances Taylor Foundation, the Extratime staff love the landscape of the site, and reap the benefits of having like-minded neighbours. They often have their meetings in our cafe and regularly attend training with Safety Net, another charity in the building that works to protect children from bullying and abuse. Al Start, a children's musician housed in the basement, has run music workshops for them.

There are others in the Manor offices, including artists, a vintage jewellery company and Brighton Pebbles, another charity supporting disabled children and their families. Their rents help to support the Emmaus Community, while the tenants get to trade skills and resources and, of course, make use of the Emmaus facilities as often as they wish. Altogether, a win-win situation.





## Training Spotters

Emmaus Brighton & Hove does more than just provide work and accommodation for its Companions – it also encourages those who want to re-train, get new qualifications and find jobs in the outside community. Meet three Companions who are currently undertaking professional training in order to move on with their lives:

Martin works in the Companions' kitchen, which provides three meals a day for the 48 residents, plus staff and volunteers. Having worked as a kitchen porter for about eighteen months, his Companion supervisor suggested he think about getting some formal qualifications, so in September last year Martin began an NVQ course in Professional Cookery at Greater Brighton Metropolitan College. He's now on to Level 2 and really enjoying it:

"I'd always done manual work previously, and never thought about working in a kitchen, but now I've found something I really enjoy."

On the same course is Nikki, who works in our cafe, Revive@emmaus, preparing and serving food to the public from 10am to 4pm each day. Like Martin, she says the course has given her the chance to meet new people and to work as part of a team. Her phone is full of photos of beautiful meals the class has made together, including a sliced duck breast with black cherry sauce that makes your mouth water just looking at it. Nikki is pleased that the skills she's learning can be used effectively in her daily work:

"I'm more aware of issues like cleanliness and clear communication, which is really important in a professional kitchen." And as our cafe has been awarded a 5-star hygiene rating for six straight years, it looks like such training pays off.

Geoff, who worked in middle management for organisations like Help the Aged and David Lloyd before coming to Emmaus, is currently on Level 2 of a Customer Service NVQ to refresh his skills and give him new qualifications. Geoff too loves his course, which covers a wide skillset, including public interaction, legal policy and health & safety:

"I especially enjoy subjects like discrimination policy, I find that stuff really interesting." And as Emmaus management points out, a Companion in training is able to feed information back to others on site, bringing new skills into the wider organisation.

What all three Companions share is a desire to achieve, qualify, and eventually find jobs in their related industries, so that they can move back to independent living.

Thanks to your continued support of Emmaus, we're confident that all of them will do just that.



## and Christmas Fair 2017

We've got a whole hamper of festive treats lined up for you on **Saturday 2 December**, fun starts at 10 am. We have Entertainment — Macramé workshops — Vintage Linen — Glitzy jewellery — Tombola — Cake stall — Hot Fruit Punch & mince pies — New Toys & Games — Christmas decorations and so much more...

**Christmas Trees on sale.** All our trees are locally grown in Sussex and freshly cut, our Nordmann firs have glossy thick needles so they won't drop. And starting at £30 for a 4ft tree, up to only £45 for a 7ft, we're pretty competitive too. Come and pick out your own tree from Wednesday 29 November – either from our main Portslade site, or Emmaus by the Sea in Southwick, BN42 4AE.

### Reflections and looking forward ...

As the year has passed by, we have often paused to think and talk about the many people who have been involved with the Emmaus Brighton & Hove Community over the last 20 years. The conversations and photos have brought back some very happy memories and allowed us to reflect on the people and events that have shaped who we are today.

41 people have served as Trustees, 6 of whom acted as Chair. 44 members of staff have been employed on a full time or part time basis, hundreds of volunteers have worked alongside over 1200 Companions on community and solidarity projects, in the businesses and behind the scenes as the Community goes about its daily business. We have grown and developed and hopefully improved all that goes into providing a safe, supportive environment which Companions can call home and contribute to our continued success and longevity.

We share our beautiful setting with the many tens of thousands of friends, customers, supporters and partners who have been on that journey with us. Thank you to the local residents who tell us that Emmaus is at the hub of Portslade Old Village and how much they value having the Community and Companions on their doorstep. We hope you will continue to be on the journey with us in the years ahead, to help spread the word and encourage others to support our work as we provide a home and welcome to many more Companions in the future.

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