



emmaus

Brighton & Hove

working together to end homelessness

Summer 2019

IT TAKES TWO, BABY....

How often recently have you heard the phrase "we need to work together"?

In recent months Emmaus Brighton & Hove has joined forces with local CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) Making It Out, to prove that when like-minded groups co-operate on a project, amazing things can happen.

Making It Out is a Portslade organisation

people at risk of offending, or re-offending after a period in jail - often with abilities and potential that has never been realised. By providing them with the opportunity to re-train, learn skills and work alongside creative professionals in design, carpentry, metalwork and arts & crafts, Making It Out can produce quality products that are then sold to the public or other organisations. At the same time, participants gain confidence, break bad habits, and set themselves on the road to a different kind of life.

Meanwhile, over at Emmaus, we've spent the last few months planning our new clothing store. Kitting out the old chapel to become a spanking new treasure trove of sustainable and ethical clothing clearly required fresh thinking and fresh design. So who better to assist than our neighbours down the road?

In recent weeks the brilliant Making It Out team have transformed what was previously our bed store into a fantastic new retail space. Combining OSB wood sheet with stained glass from the original chapel, they've created a range of custom-made units and art installations, all designed and made in their Portside Studios.



dedicated to keeping people out of prison and on a useful, rewarding path, by involving them in the designing, making and selling of creative goods. (You may have bought some of their fabulous hand-made Christmas cards at our fair in December.) Their clients are

The effect is like entering a huge and beautiful walk-in wardrobe. 'Editable' storage that can be used as shelving or cupboards provides display space for the ever-changing range of clothes arriving each week; mobile free-standing units, cleverly designed to mirror the 1930s chapel features, double as both daytime displays and tables for social events. The old altar space becomes the Vintage & Retro area, plus a haberdashery section - perfect for all the crafters out there - while drawers all around the room give customers the chance to discover hidden bags, belts and accessories. There's even two new, fully accessible changing rooms.

The new clothing store will offer not just a vast selection of pre-loved, ethical and sustainable wares, but also personal styling, special shopping events, workshops and talks. So come along and see for yourself. And if you'd like to volunteer to help in the new store, so much the better!

We'd like to use this opportunity to say a huge Thank You to all the Making It Out team - a testament to what really working together can actually achieve.

SALLY'S STORY

It's tempting to think of Emmaus solely in terms of Companions, but our Portslade Community also plays a huge role in the lives of many local people and volunteers.

Sally discovered the place as a customer back in 2005, but five years ago, following a move to the area, decided to become more involved.

"We had a pub in Brighton, The Bush in Arundel Road, and I was used to being surrounded by people. When we moved

up here, with my husband working seven days a week, I was a bit lonely."

Visiting the community to walk her dog or get a cup of coffee, Emmaus became something of a sanctuary. Sally liked the way the place was run, and noticed how people looked after each other. Signing up as a volunteer was the obvious next step, and for most of the last five years Sally has spent her Saturdays in the Revive café, helping to prepare food, performing barista duties, or just chatting to customers. She has a huge affection for the Companions she's worked with: "Mary is amazing, really helpful... Sian has a great sense of humour. And John on the washing up is one of my favourites."



Emmaus has become such a feature in Sally's life that she's celebrated two major birthdays here with cream teas in the café. Through her involvement she's also met Emmaus President Terry Waite, and TV actress Elizabeth Carling, a regular visitor to the community. But recently Sally's had to take the decision to hang up her apron, following a move to Hurstpierpoint to benefit her grandchildren and her dog. And leaving her regular Saturday job is turning out to be quite a wrench.

"I won't be there as often, but I'll get a lift down when I can. I want to keep the connection - it would devastate me not to go any more."

NVQ TRAINING

A serious obstacle for many Companions wishing to return to the wider community is a lack of qualifications. Regardless of experience, it can be hard to find work without the right credentials on your CV.

That's where Victor comes in. An ex-company logistics manager with experience of training adults, Victor now travels around Emmaus communities offering NVQ training in Warehousing and Storage. Covering subjects such as logistics, wrapping & packing, communication and stock maintenance, this not only helps Companions (and staff) to work more effectively within their own communities, but gives them a valuable advantage in the job market.

The training is government funded, with West Lancashire College topping up the difference, so it doesn't cost Emmaus a penny. It's also designed to complement Emmaus' own practice of a 40-hour week. Understanding that the usual NVQ assessment procedure, carried out over a 6-month period, doesn't work where the turnover of people is high, Victor has developed his own system. He stays at each community for up to a week, assessing Companions as they work, and making sure there's recorded evidence of their developing skills. The result is that over thirty Companions have gained qualifications in a dozen communities.

Harry Barlow, Community Leader in Emmaus Mossley, confirms that the programme was hugely beneficial for them, improving the quality of van and warehouse crews and raising understanding between different departments. He also believes that it's built confidence for participants, especially those who may not have had much formal education - achieving an

NVQ like this can sometimes be an impetus to try other courses, and gain further skills.

At the time of writing, twelve Brighton & Hove Companions have signed up for this course, so we'll keep you posted on their progress.

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

Emmaus Brighton & Hove needs volunteers in order to keep running. The size of this community means that additional support is always required - whether that's helping to sort donated goods, work in the café, tend the gardens or just assist with events on an occasional basis.

We need people who share our ethos that we should help those whose needs are greater than our own. People who don't judge, who like to be useful, and who would enjoy becoming part of the community we've built here over 22 years. We welcome anyone with the right attitude. In return, we offer the chance to learn new skills and gain CV experience. Meet new people, feel part of a team, gain confidence and make a real contribution to your community.

If you're interested, please go to www.emmausbrighton.co.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteer and download a form. Or ask at the counter, either in our Portslade Secondhand Superstore or Emmaus By The Sea in Southwick.

Have a think about it. It could make a big difference to us, and to you.

MARTIN'S STORY



New year, new beginnings. For Martin, a Companion of four years, 2019 is definitely a fresh start as he moves out of Emmaus and into the wider community. And he knows that the qualifications and experience he's gained here are what's set him on the road to a new life.

"I'd still be bumming around, looking for labouring jobs, farm or factory work," he explains on a break from his morning shift, preparing lunch for fifty-odd Companions, staff and volunteers. Now he's looking forward to working his way up in the catering industry, confident that his qualifications will guarantee him employment all year round.

Martin is one of several Companions who've taken advantage of training opportunities offered within the community, and now holds an NVQ level 2 in Catering. He's looking forward to meeting new people and learning new

skills in his chosen profession, even though he recognises the adjustment won't be easy: "I'll be working longer hours, and probably won't get weekends off." He also knows he has to get used to paying his own way after years of Emmaus providing room and board. But Martin, who's moving into a flat in Portslade with his girlfriend of two years, and has a long term plan of moving to Ireland, is relishing his new lifestyle and a promising future. We wish him all the very best. And next time you have a meal out, have a peek in the kitchen - Martin might just turn out to be your chef.

AMAZON SMILE

Emmaus Brighton & Hove is delighted to announce that we are now registered with Amazon Smile.

With thousands of us using Amazon every day, this scheme provides an easy way to support us financially, without it costing you a penny. Just go to <http://smile.amazon.co.uk>, and select Emmaus Brighton & Hove as your chosen charity. From then on, Amazon will directly donate 0.5% of the price of any eligible purchases you make. It's that easy.

Small donations like this really add up over time, so please think of us next time you go online shopping. Thank you!

We would like to thank you for your continued support, for shopping with us and for donating goods and for introducing your friends to us. Without your help, we could not achieve all these wonderful things.

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