



Winter newsletter 2019

THE DONATION TRAIL

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who've donated items to Outfit@Emmaus



It's enabled us to kit out our new second-hand fashion store with clothes, shoes & bags for every style and size, and if the new shop's first trading weeks are anything to go by, you're as keen as we are to promote the concept of re-using and recycling.

But what exactly happens to the clothes you donate?

The first port of call for a new bag of donations is the storage and sorting area, down in our undercroft, where Companions and volunteers work together to examine each piece for quality and saleability. Some items are quickly weeded out: anything obviously ripped, stained, moth-

eaten or smelly goes straight into a rag bag, to be taken away by textile recyclers. Everything else is then checked for small flaws that perhaps the donor didn't notice, such as missing buttons, indelible spots, bobbled sleeves or frayed cuffs. Sadly, many garments are discarded at this stage because canny buyers will be looking for similar defects once they reach the shop, and faulty items simply won't sell - so please check your items at home before you bag them up!

Once each piece passes muster, they are placed on hangers or in boxes, and wheeled up to Outfit@Emmaus (in the old Chapel) by trolley. There, in the sorting area behind the tills, they're given a final check, sized and priced. Any special items, like designer dresses or high-end shoes, plus clothes not appropriate for the current season, are separated and stored in the gallery area above the shop. The rest are slowly fed into the store every couple of days to keep the stock fresh and the rails full.

Right now the range of merchandise in the shop is extraordinary. Jeans, coats & jackets, skirts & tops, dresses for evening or everyday, footwear, men's shirts & trainers, bags for every occasion, all with an average price tag of a fiver or less. Quality items can be found in the designer section - a pair of shoes recently sold there for £150! But there are also many items for a pound or two, and jewellery for 50p, so there really is something for everyone.

One request - we could use some more men's clothes. Men tend not to replace clothes as often as women, and can be reluctant to part with things, even when they've not been worn for years. So please think of us if you're planning a clear-out.

And please keep all quality donations flowing in. It provides low cost clothes, reduces landfill and helps the planet - together we can change the future of fast fashion.



CHERRY MARES
Without her and her colleagues, there would be no Emmaus community on this site.



History tours
Visitors to the modern-day site often express interest in the history of the buildings and surrounds.



News update
Now celebrating its ninth consecutive year with a top "5" food hygiene rating.

CHERRY MARES

Earlier this year saw the sad passing of one of our Community's founders, the exceptional Cherry Mares.

Cherry, along with colleagues Charlie Jordan and Clive Hewitt, was so inspired by a visit to an Emmaus community in France that she became determined to set up a similar project in the Brighton area. From that moment she devoted herself to visiting other communities, researching and fundraising, until finally a meeting with the Sisters of the Portslade Convent led to the securing of our current, beautiful site, and the opening of Emmaus Brighton & Hove in 1997.

But Cherry's involvement didn't end there. In her retirement years, when so many others choose to put their feet up, she remained a vital figure in the Community's development, acting as a board member, honorary secretary, and a member of numerous committees on fundraising, management and policy. Old files reveal the hundreds of letters she wrote to companies, trusts and individuals asking for support.



Whilst heavily involved in the management side, Cherry also spent time finding and getting to know volunteers, knowing that such support was vital to sustain the community. Perhaps most importantly she spent huge amounts of time with the Companions, talking with them, sharing meals and getting to know them individually; she would always welcome newcomers, and stop for a chat with anyone who needed it.

Happily, Cherry lived to see this project flourish into the extraordinary entity it is today, and retained an active interest and love for the place right up to the end. Without her and her colleagues, there would be no Emmaus community on this site, and for her essential and extraordinary contribution, we will always be grateful.



FOLLOW US

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. But if you want to stay updated with all the Emmaus news and events, the best place is through our website or social media.

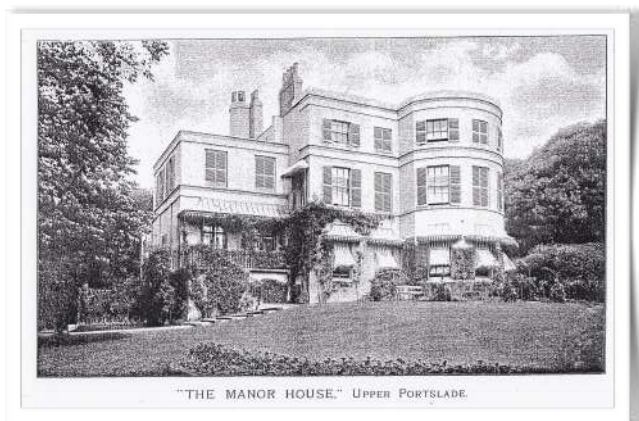
Our website www.emmausbrighton.co.uk contains tons of information, from how our community works to upcoming sales and advice on donations. You'll find numerous stories about individual Companions, and there are also links to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

Check us out to never miss out!

GRAEME'S HISTORY TOURS

Did you know that in the year 2000 there was a fire in the Emmaus chapel (now home to Outfit@Emmaus) and that vast amounts of stock collected for a jumble sale went up in flames? Graeme Clark remembers it clearly, because it was the night he arrived at the Community as a new Companion:

“The Community Leader joked that I was getting a warm welcome.”



Nineteen years on, Graeme has built up an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Emmaus Portslade site, and can reveal any number of amazing facts. He can tell you, for instance, that there is a genuine William Morris stained glass window in the entrance to the old Manor (now caged for preservation); that there was once an ice house at the rear of the Companions' kitchen, supplied by the ground's own lake; that an incendiary bomb dropped onto the main building's roof during World War II, when it was still a convent.



Visitors to the modern-day site often express interest in the history of the buildings and surrounds, so Graeme now offers talks and tours on the subject, completely free of charge (though a donation to Emmaus is

certainly encouraged!) He can accommodate groups from half a dozen up to about twenty, offering either an on-site talk & walk experience, or slide shows at other venues for those with limited mobility. So if your office, social club, school or any other organisation is interested, please email

Joel@emmausbrighton.co.uk or call Julika on 01273 426470 to discuss a date.

RICKY'S STORY

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes at Emmaus, with widely varied skills and backgrounds. But when someone turns up who not only has two days a week to spare, but also a stack of qualifications in car maintenance, painting & decorating, and landscaping, we get very excited indeed.

Ricky, registered disabled after a motorbike crash which ended his previous career as a martial arts trainer, spent many years caring for his wife, who suffered from Multiple Sclerosis. Sadly she died two years ago, leaving him with a huge practical and emotional space to fill. As Ricky says,

“I needed a calling bigger than me.”

Like many of our volunteers, Ricky first discovered Emmaus as a customer, buying low-cost furniture for his new home when he first moved to Brighton from North Wales some years ago. He started volunteering at the end of 2018, beginning in the undercroft sorting donated items. But now, thanks to his wide range of skills, he's working with the maintenance team - our first volunteer to do so - and is enjoying getting to know the Companions. “I have to keep in mind everyone's got a story. I'm talking to people and they're telling me their stories - I'm telling them mine.”

Ricky intends to stay for the foreseeable future. Here's to a long and successful partnership.

If you're interested in volunteering, you can download an application form from the website, or email

volunteer@emmausbrighton.co.uk



Catering Manager Ian Harris is proud of its achievements, but is mainly looking to the future, with special menu additions for holiday periods, community lunches for Companions, staff and volunteers on special occasions and, funds permitting, a full refurb in 2020. He also hopes to build on the success of previous events such as teatime talks, and hopes to encourage local groups to make use of the facilities. So if you're looking for a new daytime venue to have a meeting, run a club or just to get together, email Ian on ian@emmausbrighton.co.uk

See you there!

NEWS FROM THE CAFÉ

Recent months have seen big changes here, with the arrival of the new Outfit@Emmaus fashion store, the new home for the Bedroom Store, and improvements to the entrance. But for many visitors, the biggest attraction is still our café, Revive@Emmaus.

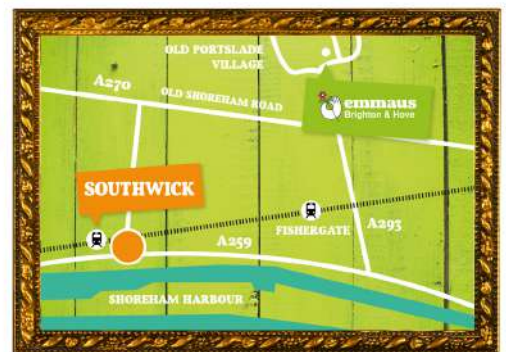
The café, now celebrating its ninth consecutive year with a top "5" food hygiene rating, is the heart of the Portslade site. Serving legendary Breakfasts and Cheesy Chips every day, plus lunchtime snacks and locally sourced handmade cakes, Revive@Emmaus is a great place to take a break from your shopping, or just to hang out with friends over coffee. If you pop in the first Tuesday of the month, you can also catch some live background music! But the café and its kitchen is equally important to the Emmaus Companions, providing an environment to train and gain new qualifications - four Companions have recently completed NVQs in catering, and dozens more have acquired certificates in hygiene & food safety over the years.



Emmaus Brighton & Hove

Drove Road, Portslade, East Sussex, BN41 2PA

- Collections 01273 426 480 or collections@emmausbrighton.co.uk
- Reception 01273 426 470
- Secondhand Superstore 01273 426 474
- Outfit@Emmaus 01273 426 472
- The Bedroom Store 01273 426 487
- Revive@Emmaus 01273 426 476



Emmaus by the sea.

Station Road, Southwick, BN42 4AE

Call: 01273 592 673

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