

Autumn 2019 Newsletter

We hope you have had a lovely summer break and a very warm welcome for the start of the new academic year, in particular to all our new students. Alongside our usual programme we are pleased to offer again *IT for Beginners* class. This is a great opportunity to change the lives of ten women and tackle one of the biggest barriers they face, digital exclusion. Whether it is helping their children with schoolwork, searching for employment or taking a citizenship test this class will help them to gain some essential skills to integrate within the society. This would not be possible without the kind and generous donation of ten refurbished laptops from *Workday* as well as funding from Co-op. All the old laptops have been wipe cleaned and hopefully will be resold by our IT engineer to raise money for the Centre.

The Co-op funding of £979 has also allowed RCLC to purchase 11 new Janome sewing machines to support our very popular sewing classes as well as the purchase of mice for laptops and upgrades for the office and classroom computers. The old sewing machines were resold to the learners and raised total of £280.

Finally, we are very pleased to announce that we have received an award of £95,000 from the Henry Smith Foundation. This is the most successful and the largest ever grant received for the Centre which will help us to continue to deliver our services in Reading in particular funding the running costs of the Centre including the staff salaries for the next 3 years.

Linus project UK

At the start of the term RCLC received a visit from Lillian King who talked to our learners about the Linus charity which provides a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies by giving them home made patchwork quilts and knitted blankets. Our learners found the project very interesting and learnt how volunteers across the whole UK can contribute and donate their time and skills to help children in need.



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Registration No.
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Healthwatch Project

Three RCLC tutors together with 17 learners aged between 20 to 65 years and from 11 different countries were involved in the Healthwatch project. The aim of this project was to promote inclusion by empowering women from BAME backgrounds to access GP services by using the new Healthwatch App as this community face many barriers to access healthcare. By the end of the project 5 learners and two tutors had signed up for the service to book appointments online, order repeat prescriptions and access their medical records. The rest of the group have been offered to help from Healthwatch to complete the process when they are ready and have the right documents.

Reading University Walking Project

RCLC has been approached by Reading University students to take part in a study on the impact of walking on mental health and wellbeing. A group of learners together with University students went for a walk around the campus and completed questionnaire before and after their walk. All the learners had a fantastic time and reported that they felt much better and more positive after their walk.

Well done to your all!



ENROLMENT DATES FOR SPRING 20

Mon 4th & Tue 5th Nov 19
from 9.30am to 2pm

Term starts on Mon 13th Jan 2020

Term ends on Wednesday 25th March 2020

Half term: Mon 17th Feb to Fri 21st Feb 2020

SPRING 20 PROGRAMME

PRE-ENTRY ENGLISH

Mon & Tue 12:30 -2:30pm

ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Beginners:

Tues & Wed 9:30 -11:30 am

Improvers:

Tues & Wed 12:30-2:30 pm

READ & WRITE Beginners:

Wed 12:30 - 2:30 pm

READ & WRITE Improvers:

Wed 9:30- 11:30 pm

Looking good, feeling good

Tue 12:30-2:30pm

SEWING SKILLS Beginners:

Tue 9:30-11:30 am

SEWING SKILLS Improvers:

Wed 9:30-11:30 am

IT for Beginners

Tue 9:30-11:30 am

EMPLOYABILITY

Wed 12:30-2:30 pm

VOLUNTEER LED GROUPS

ESOL CAFE

Tue 11.30am - 12.30pm

All classes offered at RCLC are for women only EXCEPT for the Employability course