



ISLINGTON CENTRE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS Christmas Newsletter

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year

**Thank you for helping us through it.
From all of us here, Merry Christmas!**



One of our clients, Raphael, has very generously described his experience of living through the pandemic in a video so that we could share it with you.



Raphael (not his real name) is an asylum seeker from the Democratic Republic of Congo, he has been in the UK for 5 years awaiting a decision and has attended the Centre for almost all of that time.

In the video, Raphael describes how he would like to have a business as a painter and decorator, but due to his immigration status, he is not allowed to work.

Since March, Raphael has received no money from anywhere except through the support packages that we send. The £40 he receives from us every fortnight has allowed him to buy food, travel to appointments and top up his phone so that he can stay in touch with people and join us online.

By joining English lessons and other regular sessions online Raphael has been able to continue to learn English and see his friends. 'Islington Centre is a family to me. I don't hesitate to share my personal concern with the staff. They are the one who help me with advice, orientation and make me comfort with the situation I'm going through,' he said. 'Islington Centre is my home.'

To watch Raphael's account of how we have supported him, please click here:
[Islington Centre Video Client Only - YouTube](#)

Christmas cards on sale!

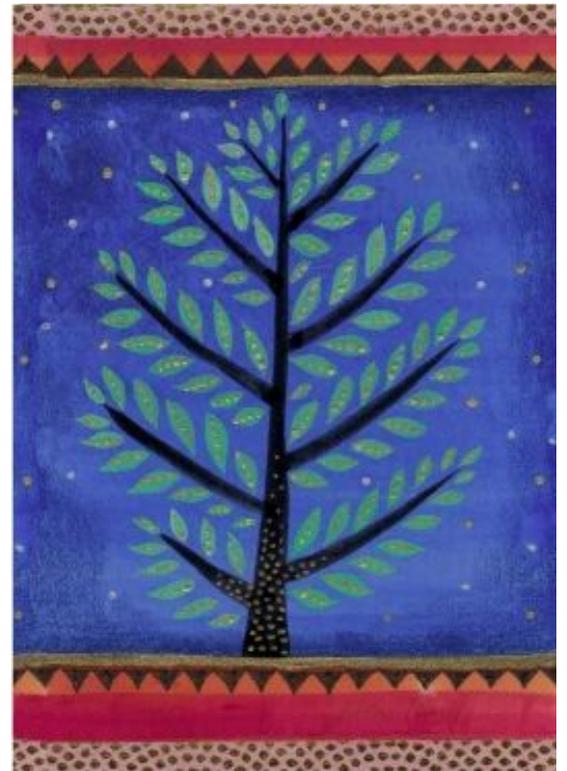
We are proud to present this year's Christmas Card designed by Jane Ray (image) and Sita Brahmachari (poem) who run our Art and Writing Class.

The design celebrates the work we have done this exceptional year where we have gathered around an online hearth.

We are pleased to say that we have partnered up with Dash who are dealing with the distribution of the cards.

The cards are £3 per pack of 5 plus postage. The link below will take you to our selling page so please do buy with confidence!

<https://www.charitycardsonline.com/islingtoncentre>



Doctor gives clients information session on Covid

We were lucky to have a virtual visit from Dr Rachel, our first visit from a doctor on Zoom! The clients and Dr Rachel had an engaging discussion on COVID-19, the vaccine and the government safety guidelines. Dr Rachel explained the symptoms of COVID and the testing process, she also answered our questions such as: 'How do I know if I have a temperature if I don't have a thermometer?' Thank you to Dr Rachel for taking the time to visit us and facilitating an essential discussion

Funding update - Partnership with Macquarie Group

Global financial services firm, Macquarie Group, has chosen to support us through its London [Graduate Volunteering Network](#) (GVN). The 2020-21 Graduate cohort based in Islington, their European Headquarters, have already raised more than £3,000 for us as part of their global Foundation Week. The GVN are working on ideas to further support us over the next year, including volunteering, and helping us revamp our website. A big thank you to everyone at Macquarie!

Songworks Winter Concert 2020

On Wednesday 16th December from 19.30 until 21.00, Songworks will be hosting their annual Winter Concert to support the work of Islington Centre. The event is free to attend and donations for the Islington Centre are welcome. If you would like to attend, please register using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlId-CvpjsuGtzSnL2klOLkyKrnyp4Hu-bj>