



Marianne's Community Café – Closure imminent

Much-loved and much needed Marianne's Community Café located in Thames Street in the heart of Staines-Upon-Thames is threatened with closure because of the funding crisis impacting our social and community services.

Marianne's opened its doors in June 2018 and has fast become an indispensable community resource.

We have welcomed 5,000 plus customers and provided invaluable work experience and training to over 20 volunteers, many of which are young people and adults with learning difficulties, mental health problems, and those on the autistic spectrum. So far, 30% of our volunteers have gone on to paid employment, additional volunteering and college training.

In addition to providing volunteering opportunities, our very busy Welfare Benefits Advisor is in the Café from 10am-4pm Monday–Friday, helping people from the surrounding areas to take control of their finances, housing, safety and wellbeing. This includes help with form filling, helping with queries, supporting appeals, contacting the DWP, and a host of other support with both benefits and welfare.

Marianne's Community Café opened following a donation received from Marianne Kewan. Marianne had an amazing life story travelling to England as a German Jewish child on the Kinder transport in the late 1930's, to escape the Nazi invasion across mainland Europe. Following her death, she left money in her will to benefit charitable services for vulnerable young people and adults in the local area. We are extremely grateful to have received money from her estate and to honour her memory and her wishes in this way.

Despite the number of individuals, carers and families that receive help and support, Marianne's Community Cafe receive no financial backing from the Local Authority or County Council to do this.

We are actively trying to raise enough money to keep Marianne's Community Cafe open. We need at least £50,000 to continue the work in Marianne's – this is to run the café, mentor and support the team of amazing volunteers and provide a professional Welfare Benefits Information and Advice service.

Unless we can raise enough money to keep it open, Marianne's will close its doors for the last time on Friday October 25th 2019.

To enable us to continue our work in Marianne's Community Café we have set up a crowd-funding site.



We are crowdfunding to raise £50,000

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wendy-ward-mariannes?utm_id=1&utm_term=MwA2zQJXA

To find out more about the amazing work that Marianne's does for the community, please visit us at

**Marianne's Community Café, Thames Street,
Staines upon Thames (opposite Debenhams)**



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Surrey Disabled People's Partnership (SDPP)



Ben, Expert Barista

“Volunteering allows me to express my skills in a creative way whilst helping and serving a friendly and buzzing community. The Café experience has not just allowed me to express myself, but has also given me a sense of pride with the local community. Everyone from everywhere coming to one place to chill out and talk, it really gives me a purpose to want to volunteer”



Daisy, Great All Rounder



Simon, Service with a Smile



Antonia, Super Frother

Vicki Atherton, Chief Executive of SDPP, the Charity operating Marianne’s Community Café commented:

“We are all absolutely devastated at the recent change in our funding status, leading to the imminent closure of Marianne’s. The team have worked so hard to build up an amazing environment of a safe and welcoming place to come, great coffee, vital help and interventions for so many vulnerable people in our community and the best team of volunteers ever, who all gain so much from what they do at Marianne’s. I am genuinely worried about where all these people will now go for the help, support, sanctuary and opportunity that Marianne’s Community Café provides”

Contact: Vicki Atherton, Chief Executive, Surrey Disabled People’s Partnership (SDPP)

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