

Getting to know.... Nigel

I started at the Round About in April on a work placement through A4e. I was put forward to work in the call centre but really wanted a more face to face role as I used to volunteer at the British Heart Foundation and loved the customer contact.

In my spare time I like doing pub quizzes and going for long walks. This has been good as I now walk half way to work which saves me money and keeps me fit!

What skills did you develop as a result of the project?

Cooking! Before I started I never cooked a thing – just some breakfast at home. I preferred to buy a sandwich than make one. I always thought shop bought tasted better! Now I make my own sandwiches, it's actually a lot easier and our ingredients in the café are really nice. I've also learnt how to bake and make a great lemon drizzle cake. Recently Janet the Co-ordinator has started showing me how to make pizzas from scratch. We have to be imaginative as we use whatever products we get from FareShare.

I've also developed barista skills. I'd only ever used a rudimentary coffee machine that we tested at the charity shop – nothing as big as the one we have now. I love making hot chocolate with all the trimmings.

What is your favourite thing in the café

For me I love a latte! I only drink ordinary coffee at home so it's nice to have a latte when I'm at work. They're quite expensive to buy elsewhere. I also think FareShare is brilliant - food getting used instead of being thrown away. And I really see the bigger picture of the café and how it helps people not just with training but a place for people to go.

How has working at the café helped your career?

I think Radian supporting the A4e programme is great. It's given me more experience and confidence. My experience of working as a volunteer has helped me support the volunteers we have and also being a paid member of the team I have to take on a level of responsibility. I'm really keen to develop a career in catering and I've just started an Apprenticeship which I'm really enjoying!



The Café – Nigel is definitely one of the stars of the Round About Café and as one customer said 'he's just on the right side of cheeky'. I think we all agree with this!