

Getting to know.... Jackie

I've been involved a number of community projects over the past few years and I've helped with a couple of events in my community as I make Jamaican food. We held an event for Black History Month which used my skills.

What made you want to volunteer at the café?

As I've been involved with things in the past, I got invited to the launch event in September 2013, and it went from there. I saw at the event that the café as looking for volunteers. I enjoy cooking so wanted to get involved. I started working at the café for one day a week from October - helping out in the kitchen, cooking food, serving customers etc. The café were flexible about the hours I could volunteer so I was able to fit it in around picking up my daughter from school. I felt really supported by the staff who gave me lots of encouragement.



I feel that volunteering at the café has meant I have gained confidence. I've not worked for a while, so my plan was to use this opportunity to get back into the habit of going out to work. I have been trying to set up my own Jamaican catering business for a while and volunteering at the café gave me some inspiration for this.

What is your favourite thing about volunteering?

My favourite thing about volunteering is interacting with customers. The feel of the café is such that we are encouraged to chat to people. I enjoyed this. I gained really valuable experience using the till and would now feel confident using one elsewhere.

What is your favourite menu item?

I think the coffee is lovely! That's my favourite thing on the menu. Before Christmas a chap from the air force who served in World War 2 came to give a talk on his experiences. I found this really touching and very interesting.



"We love Jackie's Jamaican patties! It's on our recipe page (in case you want to try it at home). Thanks for all your help Jackie and good luck with your new business venture." – the Café