



SKILLWAY IS 25!!



My son has been doing Skillway for 4 years and this workshop experience has been great. He has enjoyed it while building up his workshop skills and his confidence. I am very impressed by the things he has made with the support and commitment of the tutors. Thank you so much for all your dedication and hard work.

Contact:
01483 414081
or secretary@skillway.net

Well here we are wrapping up another academic year! Our biggest news is that we're celebrating Skillway being 25, which is an amazing achievement, and here's to the next 25 and beyond!



Pictured above: One of our older students worked alongside a volunteer to make this truly magnificent bench, it's now settled in it's new home at Eashing Cemetery which we're very proud of.

Pictured to the right: One of our students made a gavel for Penny Rivers as she became the new mayor of WBC, we're excited to be one of her chosen charities for this year!



From some of our leavers:

Did Skillway help you in any way and if so, how?

"Gives me a day off school so I can go back focused, helps me stay in school"

"Yes it helped me with my creative side"

"Skillway helped me with learning new skills like welding, and using machinery in the correct way"

Coming in September:

We're bringing back our Creative Studio! It went with covid, but we're pleased to be re-launching this amazing space in September, students will be getting to use this space and learn new things. We can't wait to see it in action again!



Vivien - having completed a turned wooden candle stick for the first time

On a recent visit to the workshops and the woods very recently, I met and chatted with four students:
 One is leaving this term and going on to do a Carpentry course at Guildford College
 Another is staying for a further year at Skillway and aiming to go to Merrist Wood in Sept 24
 One is leaving this term and having made a beautiful bench, installed on the Aarons Hill estate, he is now completing his own substantial work bench which he will use to start his own woodworking business in his parents' garage.
 The fourth student is going to Guildford College to take a course in Electrical work.
 All of them were cheerful and happy to talk to me, and a great credit to the support and guidance they have received from the tutors and volunteers.
 Well done lads - I trust that you will effectively use the skills you have learned with us as you gain your independence and enter the work environment.

From Vivien - A Trustee & long time supporter of Skillway

A few thoughts from Greg Bleach, Skillway General Manager.

25 years young! Skillway has been serving local young people for many of those years at our beautiful chapel building in Godalming. A sanctuary for many where they can be themselves and enjoy learning manual skills and a positive work ethic. How many have we worked with over that time? There must be many hundreds of adults out in the world now having experienced some time in the Skillway workshops.

This was brought home to me recently when I attended a function at Guildford Cathedral. Our Skillway display was out and a family came along to look at the creative projects on our stand. The father slowly had the realization that this was part of his story as well. This man in his mid- thirties went onto explain to his family and myself how he had attended Skillway in 2003/4 (when I first started), that he had been 'a right pain' at school and how Skillway had taught him some real life skills and given him the confidence to move on from school and us when it was time.

Since that time he had become a professional tradesperson, together with his wife bought up a family and still lived locally. His daughter even added how her dad had made her a hutch for her pet rabbit and how good it was.

So there you have it in a nutshell! Being just one small link in a chain that enables young people onto a positive path. Sometimes it's not easy and we have to occasionally admit that we cannot meet the needs of a particular young person, but many more leave us having had an inclusive personal experience, that remains with them and has made a difference.

So, to the people who had the original idea, all those founder trustees and volunteers, the many volunteers since, my wonderful long serving staff, I thank you. Simple in idea maybe, but fraught with hurdles along the way, it is amazing what we have all achieved. I also think there are a few more people out there today who would also be grateful for the day that,

SKILLWAY'S NAME WAS CARVED IN STONE!



SKILLWAY OUTDOORS



Our Outdoors days continue to be popular and we're adding a new opportunity to what we offer, beekeeping!! Bees are arriving soon and we're pretty enthusiastic (buzzing) about it!

For further information please follow our social channels:

<https://www.instagram.com/skillwayworkshops/>

<https://www.facebook.com/skillwayworkshops>



Come and listen to live music out doors and support Skillway at the same time! On 2nd September we'll be at Proms in the Park at the Godalming Bandstand, starting at 5pm.

Do you have any skills in Metal, Wood or Creativity? We're looking for volunteers in our workshops, please contact Greg Bleach—workshop@skillway.net. 01483 414081 for more information.

A huge thank you to everyone who supports Skillway financially and by spreading the word about what we do!

As a charity, donations keep our essential work going and the financial impact of rapidly rising costs, means that this support is even more important than ever. To make a donation please head over to our GoFundMe page

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-skills?](https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-skills?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=widget&utm_campaign=p_cp%2Bshare-sheet)

[utm_medium=referral&utm_source=widget&utm_campaign=p_cp%2Bshare-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-skills?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=widget&utm_campaign=p_cp%2Bshare-sheet)

Or you can donate via our Stewardship <https://www.give.net/20268491>

We hope you all have a lovely Summer, We're looking forward to September 2023 with hopes and plans for our continued support of young people.