
Surrey Youth News

“Young people and society”

This is the title of two public debates organised by Surrey Youth Focus. One was held in Guildford on 21 October and another will take place in Epsom on 25 November at NESCOL, the FE college. We are pleased to have an expert panel including representatives of young people, politicians and the police.

The background to the debates is that whilst most young people in Surrey are high achievers, the increasing cost of university education and changing employment opportunities is likely to present greater challenges over the next few years. Equally for those young people who are already facing difficulties, matters may become worse. A powerful short film has been made about the experiences of some of these young people – “Every piece matters?” The film will be shown at our AGM on 8 November if you are unable to attend the debates.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes we are doing what we can to influence government policy on behalf of the sector having received a study visit from the Department for Education youth policy division in September, and being invited to a meeting with a Minister shortly.

The need for the voluntary youth sector contribution to both mainstream work with young people, such as that undertaken by uniformed organisations, and with those at the margins of society is ever increasing...but funding is not. The sector is trying to develop new sources of funding from corporates and social finance, but funding remains a serious challenge for us all.

Significant changes are underway in relation to the funding and structure of voluntary sector umbrella bodies in Surrey, in pursuance of a Transforming Local Infrastructure grant from Government, and as some public authorities cut grants and move to a commissioning model for services. More about this in the January issue by when more will be known.

Mike Abbott
Chief Executive- Surrey Youth Focus





A day at the Zoo - with a difference



Our Explorers section – girls aged 4 -7 years met together at Fleet Methodist Church on a Saturday in July for A Day at the Zoo (with a difference). We all met with our soft cuddly animals and started with a DVD as girls joined us and registered. Next, we all played animal games.

Activities during the day included cake hedgehogs – icing sugar going everywhere



except being kept in the bowls, of course a little taste as well; a treasure hunt looking out for clues, colouring and making animal masks. We also joined together for a picnic lunch. We all met together at the end of the time together to hear about a Bible Story about Noah and sang some songs with actions.

During this time as Commissioner I presented Jo Hunter - in Alton Company with 40 years Service Badge as an Officer. The District also presented flowers and said a big thank you to Jo as she finishes in Brigade.

Carol Lofthouse Commissioner
The Girls' Brigade – Surrey Downs District



The Lifetrain Trust has been providing nationally recognised training qualifications for those working with young people for the past decade.

To date we have trained 652 staff from a variety of statutory and voluntary organisations.

The latest training opportunity we are offering is a PTLTS Course (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector). This qualification is now **a requirement for all those who work with young people and adults in a training capacity.**

The course will be held at The Lifetrain Trusts offices at Rentwood, Fetcham on 28th, 29th, 30th November and 5th, 6th December. The days will commence at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm.

Details and application forms are available on www.lifetrain.org.uk or phone Maureen Clark on 07557920507 to discuss the course.

Fishing hooks young people at Goldsworth Park Lake

The Summer fishing course for young people was a great success, thanks to the joint efforts of Woking Borough Council (WBC) and the Woking Ypod. The WBC and the Woking Ypod, partnered to deliver an ASDAN accredited fishing programme for ten young people at Goldsworth Park Lake. Oversubscribed, the fishing programme “Get Hooked!” was delivered by Marsh Farm angling coaches Andrew MacKenzie and Barry Miles.

“Get Hooked” focused on the basics to angling, including how to use a fishing rod safely, how to plumb the depth of water, use bait, use a float (bite indicator), tie a rig, and unhook fish with a disgorger. The young people made

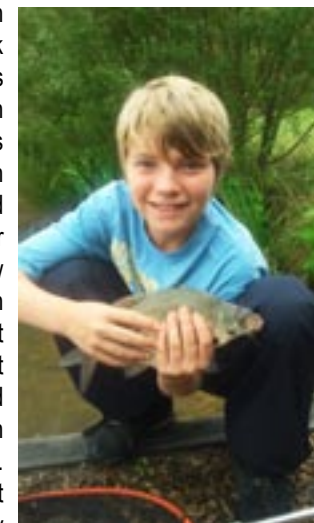
several catches each at each session in Goldsworth Park Lake which is known for its carp, bream, pike, perch and roach. “Fishing seems to have a calming effect on pretty much everyone involved and that has to be good for us all” commented Andrew Mackenzie, GetHooked coach and the Fishery Manager at Marsh Farm. “This is the first year we’ve run this course and lessons have of course been learned as we’ve gone along. It is definitely a good project that has had a number of very positive outcomes with improved concentration being at the top of the list”.

The young people on the course were equally enthusiastic “I’m new to the area, so it was great to meet new people and learn how to fish. The best bit was catching a big bream! I feel more confident and want to learn more”, said Aaron Martin, aged 15. “I had to be really



quiet and wait patiently for the fish to bite. It was really fun and I loved each week”, said Regan, aged 11.

Terry Eckersley, CEO of the Woking Ypod is happy with the project “It is fantastic to be partnering with the Woking Borough Council. We have always worked well together! The young people have engaged with the course week by week and it’s our pleasure to help them achieve a nationally accredited ASDAN award.”



“The Get Hooked project has provided young people with a great opportunity to not only learn the basics of angling but to also develop personal skills such as patience and concentration. I believe the project has had a really positive effect on all involved”, said Dale Kitchen, the Children and Young People Development Officer for the Woking Borough Council.

As well as running seasonal programmes the Woking Ypod continues to run its daily “Drop-In” service for young people.

Everyday the Woking Ypod opens its facilities for young people to drop by and use its computer room, music studio, game consoles, pool table and café, at no cost. The Woking Ypod is a youth centre in the heart of Woking, reaching young people aged 11-19, to provide them a place to belong, contribute and thrive. For more info contact info@wokingymca.org.uk

SURREY SATRO

Awards for the County's Brightest and Best

Surrey County Scholars and Surrey County Apprentices/Diploma Awards 2011 held at County Hall 5 September 2011

Skilled and talented young people from across Surrey, together with their parents and sponsors, gathered at County Hall in Kingston-upon-Thames for the 10th annual Surrey County Scholars and Surrey County Apprentices/Diploma awards ceremony, organised by SATRO.

Awards including trophies, certificates and cash prizes were presented to students by Mrs Sarah Goad, JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, and Mr Tim Wates, Director of Wates Group. Sixteen of the County's brightest and best Scholars were awarded bursaries to enable them to study science and engineering at university and to open up exciting career opportunities with leading Surrey-based companies. A further 10 students received Surrey County Apprentice Awards in recognition



was Ben Willox from Guildford College who received the Wates Cup as a result of his hard work and enthusiasm for the course.

Cllr Peter Martin, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Surrey County Council, welcomed the guests to County Hall praised SATRO and the work it does to encourage young people to



achieve their full potential in life.

One of last year's students, Michael Smith, sponsored by BOC (member of the Linde Group), to read Chemical Engineering at Cambridge University, praised his mentor at BOC, Mr Mike Dennis, for all the help and support he had received.

For the very first time 6 Army bursaries of £1,000 a year were also awarded to students who wish to make the Army their career; they also became Surrey County Scholars. Captain Graeme McDonald said "The Army offers a world of opportunities to university graduates; as a soldier you receive an incredible package of benefits to help you make the most of your time in the Army. When the time comes to leave, you'll have the qualification and practical experience to assist you with whatever career you choose in civil life'.

In addition 7 Diploma students from the four Surrey colleges received awards recognising their achievements with money, certificates

and trophies which it is hoped will help them find employment. This has been accomplished through generous funding from the Wates Group. Paying tribute to all of the nominated students, the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey said, "Britain needs more scientists and engineers in order to compete in the global economy. According to the CBI we need to double the number of qualified scientists and engineers in Britain to meet the expanding



needs of industry. Innovative schemes like ours in Surrey go a long way in helping to meet this need". She also added, "By providing extra cash for students to pursue their interests and enable them to gain real experience of working with world-class companies, helps enrich the students' university experiences and makes them more rounded individuals".

Dr Beccy Bowden, CEO, SATRO, said "We have heard so much in recent months, following the riots, lamenting the state of today's 'youth', the

students receiving these awards are a fantastic example of what our young people can achieve and we should all be extremely proud of them".

Gordon Cockburn, MBE, Development Director of the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey County Scholars and Surrey County Apprentices/Diploma Students, said, "No other County in the UK does so much to help students develop their skills and gain real experience. Surrey really cares about giving young people

the best chances in life, and we are fortunate to have a County Council and business community that is as committed to helping students with their careers".

For more information on the Surrey County Scholars' and Surrey County Apprentices/Diploma Student Schemes, please contact Gordon Cockburn or Linda Thompson at SATRO on 01483 226322

www.satro.org.uk

Member offer - Professional Archival Storage at discounted rates

Does your office look like this? Perhaps this is an exaggeration but I imagine that like most organisations you have records and accounts you must store for up to six financial years which



can take up a lot of valuable space! However, most archiving contracts are for a larger numbers of boxes than small organisations could ever use and can be prohibitively expensive.

Surrey Youth Focus has recently invested in a service from Formex to archive our essential records in safe long term storage in a Welsh mine. The benefit to us is that we know exactly where to find our records if we ever need them,

and we have more space and our offices are much more pleasant to work in!

We are now able to extend the facility to our members at a significantly discounted rate.

10 boxes - £85 p.a.

5 boxes - £65 p.a.

The boxes can be delivered and collected from your location at your convenience. Any records you need to retrieve can be recalled at any time.

If you are interested in using this service please call me on 01483 453962 or email kate.peters@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk.



Matech & Barnardos Working Together

Over the last year Matech has been working with two local Barnardo's services – the Barnardo's Surrey Transition & Independence Service and the charity's Disability Participation Service.

These projects work across the county with the Surrey Transition & Independence Service aiming to empower young people, to enable them to have new experiences, to provide opportunities to socialise and make friendships and to give carers and families short breaks. The project runs a Life Skills group which covers a range of practical activities including First Aid, Personal Safety and Travel training to improve their independent living skills in addition to taster sessions in African Drumming, Film Production, and Jujitsu.

Meanwhile the Disability Participation Service provides opportunities for all disabled children and young people to express their views and opinions about the services they receive/use throughout Surrey. The project also runs disability fun days and has a children and young people's forum (One VOICE) which is actively influencing change and service delivery throughout Surrey.



Matech have been working with the Barnardo's Surrey Transition & Independence Service to supply video workshops to young disabled people. The workshops enabled young people of all disabilities to learn how to use a professional camera and do some filming using different shots and techniques.

David Curran from Matech said: "We are passionate about getting young people of all abilities involved in filming and the workshops were greatly enjoyed by the young people who really engaged in the activities."



Rebecca Jebaratnam, Barnardo's Children's Services Manager, said: "The young people have really enjoyed participating in the film workshops. It provides an opportunity to actively learn in a practical format whilst still enhancing life skills such

as communicating effectively with one another, working as a team, gaining more independence in addition to having fun!"

Matech has also produced process films for the charity's Disability Participation Service of the Disability Fun Days, run in Guildford and Merstham and a video about the One VOICE forum. Matech worked with young people on the days to get them involved with filming and interviewing, which was a great success.

Gareth Lewington, Barnardo's Disability Participation Worker, said: "Matech have helped the One VOICE Forum publicise its work and showcase the daily struggles disabled children and young people face. They have also encouraged young people to learn new skills and socialise and communicate with each other".

Henry Symmonds, One VOICE Forum member said: "It has enabled me to learn new skills whilst having fun and improve my confidence in speaking to people I don't know which I would normally struggle with.

To find out more information about Matech's workshops or video services please contact David on 01483 841 480 or email: info@matech.org.uk.

For further information on the work of Barnardo's, please visit www.barnardos.org.uk



YMCA sovereign

A JEWEL IN THE YMCA'S CROWN

Over 140 people turned up to admire the new facilities at the Reigate and Redhill YMCA Sovereign Centre's official opening event on Thursday 29th September.

A fully accessible multi-activity room plus soft play space and separate sensory room were just some of the dramatic improvements made to make the centre inclusive to all children.

"We are so thrilled to see this exciting project finally come to fruition," said YMCA Chief Executive, Ian Burks. "Children and young people in Reigate need a place to call their own, where they can enjoy sports and leisure activities whatever their abilities. The new YMCA Sovereign can now become

a dominant force within South Park thanks to the generosity of the local community. It was great to be able to thank our funders and supporters, especially the many YMCA Challengers who have raised sponsorship from cycling, trekking, running, skydiving or firewalking in YMCA events."



Ian Burks celebrates at the event with YMCA staff Kim Roderick and Deborah Linton

Surrey's Sporting Stars

This year, join us on November 25th in the brand new G Live, Guildford to celebrate rising sports stars in Surrey.

It promises to be bigger and glitzier than ever. A new public voting system has been introduced for the Sports Professional of the Year Award. The award is for elite athletes from local teams who have inspired fans, scored points and been an exemplary sports person in everything they do. The nominees this year are Martelle McLemore (Guildford Heat), Tamsin Greenway (Surrey Storm), Mike Brown (Harlequins) and Jade Dernbach (Surrey Cricket). Voting closes

on 14 November and fans can vote for their favourite, and read more about them at www.activesurrey.com/sports-professional. A lot of votes have been stirred up by fan-forums online, so it really is neck and neck!

Of course, the focus is again on those who sparkle at a grassroots

level, whether through a lifetime of dedicated service or a talent rising up, ready to take on London 2012.

Supported by BBC Surrey, the evening will see 13 categories of awards, performances and addresses from our inspiring athletes. As usual we will have an abundance of outstanding young nominees. They promise a new generation of exciting and talented athletes and volunteers – who will take the lead in our London 2012 legacy.

Here are just some of our young Surrey nominees:

Katie Shiel-Rankin – nominated for Young Sports Personality of the Year

Through sheer determination, Katie has pushed and worked to become a National Champion at the age of 12, and is an inspiration for other young people and athletes.



She gives up a lot of her free time to support her school teams in events such as Lacrosse, Biathlon, Rounder's, Tennis, Cross-Country & Athletics. Katie is also a member of Woking swimming Club, and frequently swims for the Club in team galas. In April 2011, she ran The Virgin Mini London Marathon U-13, taking the title and setting a new course record!

Marthe De Ferrer – nominated for Young Volunteer of the Year

Marthe is lead coach to the U14 squad at the Wey Kayak Club. Marthe has paddled competitively for many years and has been a very active member of the club. Unfortunately she suffered with Glandular Fever over the last couple of years, which impacted her competing. However she has not let this stop her from being involved in the club at other levels, gaining coaching qualifications and launching new sessions to aid the growing club.

"She absolutely wants others to succeed in the sport and is a great example to other young adults".

Guildford Rugby Club, U-12 team – Young Sports Team of the Year

The highlight of the season for the lads has been winning the Braemar Cup, a competition featuring the County Champions from all over the country, thus becoming National Champions.

They played 29 competitive matches this season, winning 28 of them and drawing the other. Even more remarkably, they scored 563 points in the season and incredibly did not concede a single try or a single point in any of their 29 matches.



Four of the boys have been selected to join the Harlequins Academy.

"GRFC U12's. A truly remarkable junior sporting team – by any measure"

See the full list of nominees, and vote for your favourite Surrey Sporting Professional at www.activesurrey.com. Join us on the night to see who wins at www.glive.co.uk



Woodcraft Folk are a nationwide, environmental organisation which works for children and young people

Spelthorne Woodcraft Folk is all about teamwork and cooperation, with a strong focus on values,

friendship, sustainability, and fun!

Kerry Frankland reports on what Spelthorne Woodcraft Folk got up to on their recent trip to meet a fellow Woodcraft Folk group in Belgium:

On the weekend of 10 – 13 June, nineteen members of Spelthorne Woodcraft Folk were invited to the International Camp of Rode Valken; our sister organisation in Belgium.

Saturday - The whole group was split into two teams; the teams were mixed with both British and Belgian members to encourage friendship and develop co-operation.

Both teams took part in craft workshops, where they made friendship bands, cards, made models from wooden pegs and tie dyed. In

the afternoon, the group were busy creating outfits from scrap materials, which were then showcased on stage for the fashion show!

Sunday - Using a map, compass and a co-ordinates map the teams took part in a hiking challenge which both teams managed to complete within five hours!

During their free time, the young people played football and volleyball together and had water fights! Young people overcame the language barriers and communicated with one another through actions and playing games. Many lasting friendships were made and Woodcraft Folk are already planning ahead for next year's Camp where they'll be sure to invite their new Belgian friends!

For more information about Spelthorne Woodcraft Folk, please visit:

www.woodcraftfolk.org.uk/spel



Driving change at GASP Motor Project

These are undoubtedly challenging times for the Third Sector, but with challenge there comes opportunity. It provides charities with the chance to reshape what they are currently doing, to look at new ways of working, and to branch out into new and untapped markets. Recognising that opportunity, the GASP Motor Project has recently appointed Andy Finch as its first Chief Executive Officer. Andy brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked for a number of years in both the corporate and the charitable sectors, developing and delivering a wide range of Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, with the primary focus on education and support for young people.

Commenting on his new role, Andy said: "I am absolutely delighted to be given the opportunity to lead GASP into the future. Since its formation, the charity has built a fantastic reputation for developing and delivering high quality programmes. GASP uses motor mechanics as its key theme for engaging, motivating and developing young people, enabling them to gain the skills and confidence they need for a successful transition into adult life. Our charity's main focus is on working with individuals and groups of young people that are disaffected or disadvantaged, and who often require specific behavioural and

technical development. There is an undoubted demand for the services we provide and this brings with it a huge opportunity for us to do more. My job is to make that happen".

GASP runs both daytime, and evening sessions, currently at a modern workshop in Leatherhead. The daytime sessions focus on working with groups of clients including those with ADHD, stated educational needs, or disaffected and socially disengaged young people (12–25 years) who attend through the Youth Justice Service schemes. The programme helps to address problematic behaviours, gives them a fresh start, provides a range of accredited programmes, and generally prepares young people for further training and the world of work.



The daytime sessions have already helped to change the lives of around 50 young people, but GASP is always keen to do more. So we have now created additional sessions each week to enable us to further broaden our vital work with this often difficult to reach client group. If you work with young people, and feel they could benefit from this practical alternative learning programme, then we'd love to hear from you. Just give Andy Finch a call and he will be happy to discuss how GASP can best tailor a programme to meet your specific needs, and also to advise you on the availability and cost of sessions.

The evening sessions at GASP are very much geared towards working with young motor enthusiasts who want to know their way around

a vehicle and behind a wheel. The sessions run for two-hours and welcome individuals, groups from a youth club or school, or anyone working for their DoF Silver or Gold Award who chooses motor mechanics as their skill option. Each term is 13 weeks long and after completing the introduction course, students are awarded a GASP certificate and can then enroll for further sessions. Not only is it a great way to develop practical skills and confidence

and to work as a team, but GASP is also happy to tailor an evening programme in conjunction with a school or club.

If you want to find out more about GASP, or to enquire about sessions, or simply to discuss our plans for the future, please contact Andy Finch on email: andymfinch@hotmail.com tel no 07786 939798, or visit our website at www.gaspmotorproject.org

“Living with ADHD – Life in the Fast Lane”

That's how Nancy Williams describes the young people she helps at her specialist ADHD centre in Surrey. ADHD or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is believed to affect about 5 percent of school-age children and its manifestations, high energy associated with impulsivity and an inability to focus attention, can produce highly stressful situations. If untreated ADHD can lead to anti-social behaviour, exclusion from school and even self-harm and family breakdown.

The Studio (ADHD) Centre has now been offering support and hope to youngsters diagnosed with this condition and their families for over ten years. Nancy Williams stresses the need to dispel the many myths that surround the condition. It is not caused, for example, by poor parenting or by poor diet. While medication has a role to play, the holistic solutions advocated by The Studio (ADHD) Centre aim to develop the potential and positive characteristics of the ADHD sufferer, at the same time teaching social skills, self control, personal care and consideration for others

At a Celebration to mark 10 years since the Studio became a registered charity 12 young people received awards recognising their achievements in overcoming the challenges of living with ADHD. These are just two



examples;

Tom came to the Studio at 15 having been excluded from school and involved with gangs. We channelled his leadership abilities into an outdoor instructor role at Camelot where he excelled. Tom was also presented with the Amory Award for Leadership on the Rona Trust Sailing Ships at 17. Tom is now qualified to work in event security.

Troy was referred to us at 13. Troy has exceptional communication and people skills. His father wanted him to be an engineer, but after getting his work experience in Toys R Us, he's gone on to hold down three jobs at a time in retail.

Troy has also travelled widely to South Africa and Portugal on his own and is now embarking on a cycling adventure through Spain to Morocco.

For more information about the Studio visit <http://www.studioadhdcentre.org.uk> or contact Nancy on 01306 71230

An update from Marie Silvester



Hello to all. I have now been at Surrey Youth Focus for a year and a half, and simply wanted to alert you all as to what I have been doing since joining the charity.

Firstly, may I start on a personal note – I am happy to say I have now finished my degree - BA (Hons) Youth & Community Work, and will be graduating on the 12th November.

Since the last edition of 'Surrey Youth News', I am pleased to announce that Redhill youth club has successfully opened its doors with many young people attending every Friday. I have also been

working with a youth club in South Godstone and am hopeful for a new facility we are working to set up in Felbridge.

The new training course – "Youth Work – The Basics", has proved very popular, each of the three courses has been fully booked. In fact the next course in November is also full, which therefore means that the next opportunity to take the course will be in the new year on 4th February and 18th February 2012, with both dates needing to be attended. Please contact me as soon as possible to book your place if you are interested.

If you would like to find out any more information on the training course, or on clubs that I have been involved in, or even if you are interested in volunteering in a youth facility within Surrey, then please contact me. I am employed on a part-time basis, and cover the whole of Surrey, whilst focusing mainly on high need areas. My office hours are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

marie.silvester@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk.

01483 453962



Youth Work – The Basics

4th and 18th February 2012

(£5 deposit required when booking- repayable on attendance)

To book a place on this free course contact

marie.silvester@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

SURREY YOUTH LEAGUE LAUNCHES 9 V 9 FOOTBALL

The Surrey Youth League (SYL) season got underway on 11th September 2011 which for the first time included a new 9 v 9 format for the Under 11 age group. With over 80 teams competing, the new format has proved extremely popular amongst players, parents and coaches alike.

The initiative is a result of a successful partnership project between the SYL and Surrey County FA.



League Secretary Frank Thompson said: "9 v 9 football is the ideal pathway for youth teams as a transition between Mini Soccer and the 11-a-side game. The format offers a stepping stone for the learning and development of players, with pitch sizes and goalposts being more appropriate to their age, which promotes more touches of the ball, more dribbling opportunities as well more goal scoring chances."

One of the first games played saw Barnes Eagles taking on Sutton United at Barn Elms Playing Field. The closest man to the action throughout the game was referee Stephen Worsley, and after the match the official took the view that 9v9 football can be a huge confidence-booster to its young players.

"One of the things I've hated when they make the jump to 11-a-side football is what happens to the goalkeeper," said Stephen. "In full-size

goals they just can't reach the high shots or the ones in the corners. 9v9 football allows the 'keepers to show their skills."

Barnes Eagles' Welfare Officer Judith Enright was full of praise for the new smaller sided game. She said: "The jump from 7-a-side to 11-a-side was just too big. It can be a big shock and they can't really communicate on the pitch, but 9v9 football lets them get used to the larger game gradually.

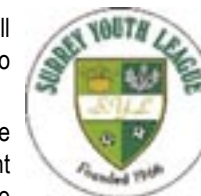
Graham Ekins, chairman of the Surrey Youth League who watched the game, believes the initiative will help unearth some talented individuals, saying: "I'm sure we've got the next Cesc Fabregas or Xavi out there – they just need to be given the chance."

In the build up to the launch Surrey County FA and the Surrey Youth League held consultations with team managers and local authorities, as well as securing funding to provide the goal posts through the following sources:

- Sport England Small Grants fund (£10,000)
- Surrey County FA Charter Standard League Development Fund (£1,500)
- Surrey County Playing Fields (£800)

For further details on joining the Surrey Youth League contact Frank Thompson on frank.thompson@wsyl.org.uk 07747764349

And for more information on 9v9 football, please contact Caroline McRoyall on caroline.mcroyall@surreyfa.com or 07917 392823





All men are born equal ...

Professor Michael Joy OBE, High Sheriff of Surrey 2011-12, offers his personal view of the causes of social injustice in our society.

“All men are born equal in the sight of the Lord”. The words of Martin Luther King just before his assassination resonate today as vividly as they did 43 years ago. King was fighting for civil rights and social justice in the United States but just as disabling, and demeaning, are deprivation and poverty. And poverty is everywhere, even in Surrey. Furthermore, relative deprivation has increased in the past decade in spite of record fecklessness in terms of government expenditure.

One of the consequences of deprivation is loss of health. In Surrey, where there is deprivation, life expectation is reduced by 7 years: healthy life expectation by 15 years. Contributors to this lamentable state of affairs are poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking and alcohol addiction.

OECD data stress the unfairness of UK society. Deprived pupils have less chance of climbing the social ladder than those in the USA, France and Australia, worse even than Mexico, Latvia and Estonia. The UK is below all other European nations, in terms of improving the lives of poor children and our children have the worst quality of life in Europe. There is no excuse for not addressing these problems in this county.

As a country we have lost our compass and become tolerant of failure. It is an acceptable life choice for some adults to be idle. The Office for National Statistics has shown that there are 3.9m households containing 5.4m adults in the UK which are workless. 1.9m children live in workless households, the benefits culture being passed from one generation to the next.

Youth unemployment is almost 1m. 80,000 young people have not worked for more than 2 years. And yet 87% of the new jobs in the past year have been taken by immigrants workers often from the Accession States of the European Union because the indigenous population is unqualified for them, or the rewards are seen as unattractive. Why?

With worklessness comes family distress, drug and alcohol addiction, and crime. Some people expressed outrage at the recent rioting and looting. They must have been asleep, it was only a question of time before it occurred (again). There is part of our society which no longer believes that it belongs.

Failure of parenting, and of parts of the educational system, has led to an underclass up to a quarter of which is functionally illiterate and / or innumerate. It is potentially unemployable but, unsurprisingly, feels that it is entitled to the consumer society which is relentlessly thrust upon it.

In Surrey there are numerous civic and charitable agencies which are working towards resolution of these seemingly intractable problems. But central funding is being reduced as the recession takes hold. Social Justice demands that society as a whole takes ownership of these issues and does not walk upon the other side.



High Sheriff Youth Awards

Helping young people make Surrey safer

Proud to support young people

The High Sheriff Youth Awards is delighted to sponsor this issue of Surrey Youth News. Surrey Youth Focus and the High Sheriff Youth Awards (HSYA) have a similar vision and have enjoyed a long association. Surrey Youth Focus was set up (as SCVYS) in the mid 1980s, whilst the original HSYA scheme was founded almost two decades ago. Both charities share the aim of supporting the many voluntary and community groups which help young people to thrive and to make Surrey's communities stronger and safer.

The efforts of successive High Sheriffs, and the generosity of a wide range of stakeholders, have enabled the HSYA to play an increasingly significant role in supporting young people, particularly for the many groups and neighbourhoods across Surrey experiencing real need .

In 2009-10, HSYA made grants to groups of young people in our county totalling £46,000. This figure rose to over £60,000 in 2010-2011, when 60 grants were given benefiting some 6,600 young people. By mid September in the current financial year, we had awarded over £29,000 to 25 projects, helping in excess of 6,500 young people. We again expect to have awarded a total of £60,000 by March 2012.

Making Surrey safer and stronger

The HSYA scheme recognises that, with appropriate support, young people can themselves help to reduce crime and damaging behaviour. The projects and initiatives that we fund – many of

them highly innovative – help to embed young people in the social fabric of local communities and so contribute to the quality of life of everyone in the county. At a time when young people can feel isolated and face an uncertain future, HSYA-funded projects connect people with each other, building relationships and self-confidence.

We actively seek to fund initiatives which enable connections to be made with vulnerable young people, helping to build their resilience against crime. HSYA-funded projects offer a multitude of activities in a safe environment. Some are in communities where previously no provision existed, or had been lost. Importantly these projects also offer opportunities to have fun, express creativity, learn skills – and can enable young people to demonstrate real courage.

Giving Recognition

As well as money, the HSYA offers recognition and acclaim to the successes of young people. There are our Certificates of Recognition, personal visits by the High Sheriff – this year Professor Michael Joy – and the annual high-profile Celebration of Achievement, sponsored by ExxonMobil.

On the next two pages we show projects from across the county that have received a High Sheriff Youth Award quite recently.

Our grants will have helped with start-up costs, funded specific resources and equipment for established schemes, or helped with a special course or event.

A few of the High Sheriff Youth Awards from 2010 and 2011

40 Degreez HSYA gave two grants in 2010-2011 to 40 Degreez, the vibrant Farnham youth club. Funding went to audio equipment for a new Dance Club and landing mats for the Parkour Club – a free running club. Both activities encourage young people to develop new skills and help enhance self-esteem.



40Degreez

Surrey Magistrates Mock Trial competition for Surrey schools (part of a national competition) was held in March 2011 at Woking Court. This competition teaches young people about the legal system and the role of law within a democratic society. The HSYA grant helped to run the event.



Mock Trial

Kidszone was set up in April 2010 at Molesey Youth Centre and provides a safe environment for 9-12 year old children, some of whom are among the most disadvantaged in their community.



Kidszone

Liquid Connection HSYA gave two grants in 2010-2011 to Liquid Connection, a faith based charity that works with young people in Leatherhead. One grant was for BLISS, a residential week for girls experiencing problems within the family, school or community. The other was to help with the costs of a mentoring scheme for vulnerable and at risk young people in Mole Valley.



BLISS

YLD Extreme The HSYA grant helped fund YLD Extreme, a one-day event raising awareness of opportunities available to young people in the borough of Epsom and Ewell. It showcased local clubs and groups providing diversionary activities. The HSYA funding also went to a BMX and Skateboard arena.



YLD Extreme

STEPS Spelthorne is one of three STEPS programmes run by Surrey Care Trust, which provide a full range of 'last chance' educational and training opportunities for excluded or at risk of being excluded young people. Our grant went towards educational trips for those in Year 11.



Steps Spelthorne

Junior Citizens' Fortnight run by Safer Guildford Partnership, targeted Year 6 children from 22 local schools. HSYA funding helped the programme deliver sessions including anti-social behaviour, stranger danger, and road and fire safety.



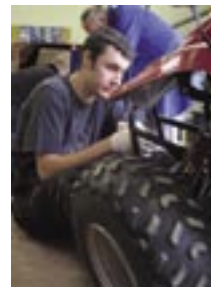
Junior Citizens' Fortnight

The Easter Community Project was organised by a local PCSO in Surrey Heath, with a special bus fitted with music-making equipment on the top deck and an advisory centre on the lower deck, together with a small zoo and other attractions to travel to five different areas of Camberley over the course of Easter week 2011.



Easter Community Project

The HSYA grant went towards the cost of bus hire and music making equipment.



GASP Motor Project

GASP Motor Project runs morning sessions for at risk young people countywide, including groups referred by Surrey Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Studio ADHD. It also teaches young people motor engineering and off-road motor skills at evening sessions. It received HSYA transition funding in 2010-11.



SRS Mermaid

SRS-Mermaid, based at Tadworth, is an offshoot of Sea Rangers that gives young girls the chance to learn to sail, row and kayak. The HSYA grant paid for final refurbishment of a small boat and the purchase of a second-hand boat trailer.

Runnymede Police Community Boxing Club is a Surrey Police community initiative that benefits young people from a wide range of backgrounds. The 2010 HSYA grant paid for protective equipment such as head guards, gloves and lower body protectors.



Runnymede Community Boxing Club

Bletchingly Youth Club received a HSYA grant of £1,000 for start up costs of this local initiative driven by the local PCSO and Parish Council. In response to need, they set up the regular weekly club in a village that previously offered limited opportunities for young people.



Bletchingly Youth Club



High Sheriff Youth Awards

Helping young people make Surrey safer

Our partners, donors and sponsors

The High Sheriff Youth Awards would not exist without the generosity of our donors, sponsors, partners and volunteers. They share our sense of urgency to help young people make Surrey a safer and better place. The partnership with Surrey Police is fundamental, building on the historic role of the High Sheriff in law and order. In addition to the central support provided, Police Community Support Officers are often key players in the projects funded in local communities.

Funding for the HSYA scheme comes from four main sources:

- civic donations from Surrey County Council and from Surrey's boroughs and districts, who provide ongoing support which is especially valued in these financially constrained times.
- funding from the corporate sector – we are very grateful to P&G (Procter & Gamble), ExxonMobil, Barlow Robbins Solicitors and BOC.
- grants from charitable foundations – currently the Peter Harrison Foundation and The Henry Smith Charity – with several others helping us in past years. We have just received a donation from the Hidden Surrey Fund at the Community Foundation for Surrey, from donations received during the Lord-Lieutenant's 2011 celebrations of the 650th anniversary of Justices of the Peace.
- donations from individuals' own pockets.

We would be delighted to hear from other potential sponsors and donors. Please contact admin@surreyhighsheriff.org Our management overheads are minimal: administration of the scheme and the assessment of applications are carried out almost entirely by volunteers.

How to apply for a High Sheriff Youth Award

We give awards of between £100 and £2,000 to projects that help make Surrey safer. It is simple to apply via the website www.surreyhighsheriff.org

We prefer to fund schemes where young people, normally aged between 9 and 18, are actively involved in the planning and delivery.

We have experienced a sharp rise in the number of applications due to the challenging economic climate and the increased visibility of the HSYA scheme. We are therefore focusing our grants on projects which make a **direct contribution to the prevention or reduction of crime and tackle anti-social behaviour**, which is the charity's main object.

Handicamp - Fun Friendship & Integration - courtesy of Woking District Scouts

During the second weekend in September, and with a Wild West theme, Woking Scouts held their 26th annual **Handicamp** at Woodlarks Campsite in Farnham. Nearly 70 Woking Explorer scouts were joined by children with special needs from Link Leisure based in Board School Road, Freemantles and The Park schools in Woking and Abbey school in Farnham and Kings College in Guildford for a weekend of fun challenges.

All the young people camped in tents. Scouts aged 14 to 17yrs old were buddied with the pupils for the whole weekend and helped to look after them. They all took part in new and challenging activities such as climbing and abseiling, kayaking and rafting on the River Wey, air rifle shooting, archery, constructing water rockets and building model aeroplanes and taking part in flying competitions.

Dinner was made more exciting by trying out backwoods cooking over open fires, cooking tasty and spicy beans cowboy style with Mexican chicken and making a refreshing drink of sarsaparilla

The 26th year of Handicamp was funded by the Chobham-based Children with Special Needs Foundation, the Surrey Army Cadet Force and the Kelsy Trust. Local business also showed their support with donations from Roberts Butchers in St Johns, Repropoint in Woking and Waitrose in Farnham. The huge three face climbing and

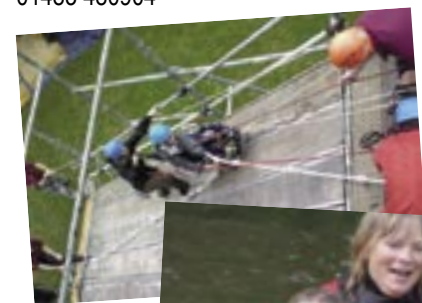
abseiling wall was constructed by Harsco with HSS Southern in Old Woking supplying some of the safety fencing.

During the weekend, Woking Mayor Cllr Ken Howard visited the camp and got to experience the thrills being had by everyone, climbing and abseiling the 30 foot tower and trying his hand at Archery.

The weekend enabled 160 young people, leaders and teachers to meet and learn from each other over a very memorable weekend.

Handicamp is a very unique camp and for most of the youngsters, this was their first time away from their families, the friendly cowboys and girls enabled the young people to experience new challenges in a safe environment and the chuck wagon made sure they didn't go hungry'.

Brian Pinto - Explorer Scout Commissioner
01483 480904





Celebration of Youth 2012

Saturday March 24th 2012

Mark your calendars and start thinking about what you would like to present to Surrey at the next Celebration of Youth.

The Celebration is a great networking opportunity to meet key contacts in Surrey and a chance to show off all the great things young people achieve.

With the support of the Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor John Sheldon we are already making plans for the next event to be held Elmbridge. We need groups and individuals who can tell us their experiences, performers, story tellers, exhibitors and volunteer recruiters.

To get involved with next year's Celebration contact Kate Peters on 01483 453962 or kate.peters@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk



The YDS are making a Difference in Waverley

The Youth Development Service Summer activities in **Haslemere** kicked off this year with an 80 mile off road mountain bike expedition to Hayling Island and back. The trip was enjoyed by 12 participating young people, youthworkers and volunteers from local mountain bike charity 'Rezurgence' and 'Lumpy Bumpy'.

Next up the Wey Centre youth drop-in session moved venue for one week to Lion Green where we organised and played team sports as part of the community 'Wave' event.

On Tuesday 2nd August young people teamed up with local Street dance outfit 'Street Nation' to create a mural for our dance mirror in the sports Hall. This was followed by a table tennis competition with local police officers during the weekly drop-in session; the young people won comfortably (despite the best attempts at cheating by the police!!!)

Towards the latter end of the holidays on the young parents group enjoyed a day trip to London Aquarium. Also late in the holidays was the annual Haslemere skate and BMX competition which was held on Monday 29th August and attracted around 70 participants and spectators.

In **Cranleigh**, Surrey Youth Service and Waverley Borough Council worked in partnership to provide Team Extreme to host two skate, BMX and blade workshops with a grand finale competition at the end. Young people worked with the experts to develop their skills, which were then put to good use in the competition. There was a huge range of ages and abilities all working well together often drawing in parents and other family members to watch. One young person commented – "this is awesome I love this event it's the best" "I've learnt how to do a

new trick"

Cranleigh youth club provided a variety of activities for young people to participate in during the summer period. To provide such a wide programme we worked in partnership with SCC sports developer Nick Jolly, Waverley Borough Council, Cranleigh Parish Council and Cranleigh Police. All the young people were tested and challenged in the activities provided encouraging them to push themselves as well as enjoying themselves.

"I have had so much fun" said one participant, "I could not afford to go on camps like my friends so the youth club activities helped me make new friends".

Two NEET young people aged 17 years, from the Sandy Hill Detached Youth Project in **Farnham** have now secured full-time work. This has come about through connections that have been maintained with older ex-members of the youth group, who are now working for local companies and have kept staff updated when there are job vacancies coming up at their places of work.



It is incredibly satisfying as a youth worker to see the

relationships that we have built over the last 10 years resulting in job opportunities for our younger members, with the added benefit of ex-members having a 'mentoring' role linked to employment.

Contact Details:

Haslemere: Chris Secker: 01428 656926

Farnham: Venice Sinnott : 07976 975 761/

Tracy Scars: 07968 834 229

Godalming: Jill Heywood: 07968 834 660

Cranleigh: Nicci Millar Foy: 07968 832 411

Guides from all generations walking the bridges of London.

Brownies from Thames Ditton and Goldsworth Park, and Guides from Staines, Sunbury and Thames Ditton, and Trefoil Guild members from Goldsworth Park joined more than 4,000 other members of Girlguiding from across

London and the South East of England as they walked across some of the world-famous bridges spanning the River Thames in July. The Brownies and Guides in each group decided how many of the eight bridges to walk and what route to take.

As well as completing the challenge, the girls took in stunning views of the River Thames and dozens of other famous London landmarks, including City Hall, St Paul's Cathedral and the Millennium Eye. They also had the chance to meet other members from across the region.

The Thames Ditton groups decided to take part as they are fundraising to enable them to refurbish their Guide hut, which needs a lot of work doing to it after 60 years in continuous use. Sarah Phelps, a Brownie with 1st Thames Ditton, said: "It was a long walk but I didn't mind because my friends were with me which made it great fun!"

Alison Denison the Unit Leader of 4th Staines Guides, congratulated the organising team on a job well done: "All the information and maps were very detailed enabling the girls to decide which bridges to cross and what side of the river to walk. It was a great experience for the girls".

Ann Morton, a Trefoil Guild member said: "It was a fantastic day and great to see all ages enjoying themselves. It was the usual fun and friendly day that Girlguiding offers.

The event was designed to encourage walking as a way of exploring the outdoors and each person collected a medal once they had completed their walk.

Girlguiding UK enables girls and young women to experience adventure, voice their opinions and develop confidence in a safe, girl-only environment. To find out more about guiding, please call 0800 1695901 or email join.us@girlguiding.org.uk.



Woking Explorer Scouts Annual Challenge Camp 2011

With a Chinese theme, over 60 Explorer Scouts and their leaders from Woking spent a very warm and sunny October weekend at Woking districts' own campsite on Wisley Common, for their Annual Challenge camp.

The weekend began with 20 scouts from the Young Leader Unit being instructed on Communication skills, when working with the beaver, cubs and scout section who they assist with as explorer scout young leaders. The training is included as part of their Volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh and Scout Awards.

During the weekend the Explorer scouts aged 14 to 18 years old and representing the Challenger unit from Knaphill, Martian unit from Horsell, the Wey Ahead unit from Pyrford, the Phoenix Unit in Byfleet and the Maverick unit based in Kingfield, competed for both the Annual Challenge Trophy and the newly introduced, Golden Bog Seat Trophy.

The Saturday began with the construction of scout style Rickshaws and competing in various races, after having gone through the grand prix style time trials. This was followed by chopstick races and kung fu workshops, building an assault course using pioneering poles and lashings, plus wide games on the common.

Saturday evening ended with a campfire, with sketches and song organised by the explorer scouts own committee. During the weekend the scouts cleared some of the ditches near the campsite and had a general tidy up, before the winter sets in, as part of their service on Wisley Common.

The camp which is open to all the 120 explorer scouts and young leaders in Woking



was organised by the Explorer scout committee, consisting of members from each of the six units.

The competition this year was very close and the main trophy was won by the Phoenix Unit based in Byfleet, with the Challenger Unit in

Knaphill as runners up. The Golden Bog Seat Trophy was won by the Maverick Unit from central Woking.

Brian Pinto - Explorer Scout Commissioner
01483 480904

Advertise in Surrey Youth News

Mini	- £20
Quarter Page	- £50
Half page	- £100
Full page	- £200

Sponsorship packages available

SYF Member rate - 50% discount

Contact 01483453962

admin@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

Two exciting approaches to youth work in Guildford

Young people take a step forward

Some young people have a clear sense of direction for their lives. For those that don't, there's a depressing lack of opportunities. Job prospects are poor and a sense of despair for the future can quickly settle in. But a partnership between the Matrix Trust and Guildford YMCA's Plantation is making the most of Connexions/Surrey County Council



funding to deliver a course that helps those young people take a positive step towards the future.

Success for Princes Trust Teams

For many years Guildford YMCA has run Prince's Trust Teams in Guildford in partnership with Guildford College. These free 12 week courses have a dramatic effect on the 16-25 year olds that take part, and lead to the development of skills and team working, as well as enhancing CVs and job prospects.

In recent years the YMCA has started further courses in Egham and Reigate thanks to the generous support of St John's Church, Egham and Reigate Baptist Church, both of which provide bases for the young people to meet. In the Prince's Trust's last annual review Guildford YMCA was commended as 'outstanding' for its delivery of Prince's Trust Teams, and its record of 85% of participants going on to further training or employment (against a national average of 80%) speaks for itself.

Described as one of the best performing Prince's Trust Team Delivery Partners in the South East, Guildford YMCA youth workers are engaged in another busy autumn, with a further venue being added to the collection. For the first time young people in Crawley will be able to access a Prince's Trust Team and experience the Guildford YMCA effect.

Aspire is a new part time course available to 16-19 year olds that combines fun activities with serious reflection on what motivates each young person. There's a mix of one to one sessions and group work, and with plenty of upbeat activity sprinkled in, each young person is encouraged to identify their values, strengths and aspirations. Youth workers also help with other issues that become apparent, such as raising self esteem, budgeting, improving communication or team work. By the end of the 7 week course, each young person has evidence of the work they've done and a clearer sense of direction and purpose. Indeed, many have secured college places or found employment, the best result of all.

Recent participant Sam said, "This course has really helped me to grow in confidence which I didn't expect," and Luke added, "This has been useful to add to my CV and it will help me get where I want to go."

More information is available from Hannah or Julia on 01483 888122 or visit www.plantationcafe.org.uk/aspire.

The course itself has many elements – all designed to stretch the young Team members. They are taken out of their comfort zones for a week to the wilds of Dartmoor where they face several make or break challenges. There are low points - some young people don't stay the course - but for those that do the high points are exhilarating. Members from the last Teams say, "This course has boosted my confidence and made me feel I can do things I never thought possible," and "I've loved my time on this course and the people on it have been brilliant with the support they give. They've put a smile on my face every single day."

The young people engage with their community by choosing, fundraising for and delivering a project that will benefit others. They learn to work with each other and take turns to lead the team. This stimulates self esteem and reflection on what works and what doesn't. With CV development and work experience on top Team is a powerful force for change.

Completing a Prince's Trust Team is a great achievement. If you or someone you know could benefit from the experience call Sarah on 01483 888122 to find out more or visit www.plantationcafe.org.uk



Sportivate

Are you ready for the Olympics?

London 2012 is just around the corner, but are you ready? Apply for Sportivate funding and you can harness the excitement at the very peak of 2012.

The fund, which is part of the official London 2012 Legacy can be used to provide equipment and coaching for 14 – 25 year olds to try a new sport for 6 – 8 weeks. The aim is for clubs to increase their young membership, and to encourage young people to continue with the activity afterwards as well as give them the chance to try something new. This improves health, fitness and social skills – ultimately creating happy, confident young people!

The next round of Sportivate funding is open from 14th November to 9th December 2011 for projects running from April 2012 onwards.

Find out more: www.activesurrey.com

activesurrey



SURREY COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Kids Are Alright

After a plea from children in Surrey asking for more social activities in the evenings and weekends, one resident from South Godstone has responded by setting up a new football team – and despite his only coaching experience coming from celebrated PC game Championship Manager, Colin Williams is ready for the challenge

You only have to scan a newspaper and you'd be under the impression that every teenager is pregnant, looting, smoking, drinking, or all of the above. And while the recent rioting in London, Manchester and closer to home in Croydon has fuelled this view, the general opinion from Britain's youth themselves is that they all don't want to be tarred with the same brush.

This belief is no more apparent than in South Godstone, near Redhill, where following several years of struggling for things to do outside of school, these so called 'tearaways' decided to take action. With the help of youth workers, local teenagers put together several posters and dropped them through residents' doors, requesting help to set-up activities to do in their spare time.

IT consultant Colin Williams, who's lived in the area for the past six-years, answered the SOS call, and so began his foray into junior football management with South Godstone Youth FC.

"South Godstone is great place to raise a family, however there is not very much for teenagers to do," says Colin, speaking ahead of his new side's first ever game, a friendly against Caterham Pumas. "South Godstone FC has senior teams but they hadn't had a junior team for over ten years - apparently the team collapsed because they couldn't get the parents to help out with transport on match days. It's quite a sad story really. I spoke to the manager of the senior teams to see whether they could help us create a junior team and he was all for it."

Coaching a football team is a tricky enough task in itself, but starting from scratch with a new side and no management experience adds a whole new dimension – but the 38-year-old feels he is well prepared thanks to an unusual source.

"I played football at amateur level from around the age of 8 until I was 14 but I stopped because the game had become too serious - nobody seemed to be playing with a smile on their faces any more. Years later, I started to play Football Manager (aka Championship Manager) – a football management simulation game which has taught me a great deal about tactics."

Armed with an eager and hungry side looking to make an impression and an array of tactics courtesy of a PC game, what would constitute a successful season for South Godstone Youth when May roles around?

"Well I'm sure if you asked the kids they would want to march through the season unbeaten," says Colin. "Personally my ambitions are short-term - retaining the squad, getting the paperwork done and making sure the kids are all fit. I just want to get things up and running and the kids playing football."

Watching the boys walk out onto the pitch for the first team at the club's home ground – which



ended in a thrilling 6-6 draw – Colin's grin is as wide as the goal mouth. Colin admits he has enjoyed every minute.

"It is without doubt the best thing that I have ever done. "They turn up for Monday night training half an hour early so that they can get going and play. Training overruns because they don't want to go home, resulting in them playing in failing light. When you show someone how to get their head-up and cross, and then they start to do it in matches, you know that it's all worthwhile and you'd do it all again at a moment's hesitation."

And thanks to the Surrey County Football Association, Colin's job was made all the more easier.

"The Safeguarding Children course was great and Surrey County FA definitely seem very advanced in their attitudes to child protection."

Aside from the obvious benefits of getting kids active and meeting new and interesting friends, South Godstone FC will serve wider purpose in the community. Colin adds: *"In all honesty, the lads had started to get into mischief in the area. The police had started to become a regular sight, and some members of the local community had started to deride them. I believe that this divide between the local youth*



and the adults had grown quite wide and so a major motivation for me was to bring the kids back into the community."

Whether or not the team go the campaign unbeaten, the team can already be considered a success in terms of what it has done for the area.

"It's my belief that there are enough people within this community and all over the County who can help and perhaps are just waiting for someone to ask," Colin concludes, before heading home to prepare for the season opener (six hours of Championship Manager in other words).

If you are interested in starting a new football club or becoming a coach yourself, please check out website www.surreyfa.com or contact Craig Hicks on 01372387092 or craig.hicks@surreyfa.com

And it doesn't end with football.

Surrey Youth Focus are pleased to introduce their newest member - South Godstone Youth Club.

Colin Williams is not just into football. Impressed by the energy of local youth he got involved in setting up a new youth club in South Godstone. Chris and other local volunteers working together with Marie Silvester our Youth Development Worker, local Police and Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service have created a new Youth Club which will provide a safe place to meet and offer and organised activities for youngsters aged 11- 16. Along with the usual sports, arts and leisure activities the volunteers hope to get the young people re-painting the scout hut, cleaning out the village pond and cutting hedges!





“Scoutabout is Awesome”

Says 14 year old Josh from Guildford West District. No wonder he said that, with some 220 activities to share with 6,393 Scouts, Guides, Explorers and Leaders, all camping in the 1,750 tent city. That is pretty ‘awesome’. Surrey’s fun-filled activity weekend held at the South of England Showground was the biggest yet, and a huge success.

Scoutabout runs every three years and this year was the tenth to be held at Ardingly. The weekend event, which took place from Friday, June 24 was organised and attended by Surrey Scouts, Girlguiding Surrey East and Girlguiding Surrey West.

Scouts and Guides had the chance to try new and adventurous activities such as quad biking, car driving, assault courses, archery, abseiling, climbing and caving (The Black Hole) to name but a few. There were also lots of unusual activities such as slate-cleaning, wood-turning, custard-walking and a rock music school. Traditional activities and crafts also had their place such as knotting, branding, cooking and catapults.

Over the weekend the equivalent of 14 Ben Nevis’s were abseiled down, 6,000 young people went through the ‘black hole’ caving experience and 20,000 air-rifle pellets were shot at targets. On the catering side a mile of sausages were eaten, 6,000 pints of milk were drunk and four-and-half tonnes of pasta was consumed.

At every Scoutabout new activities are introduced to keep it fresh and interesting, this year’s highlights included brush boarding and zorbing. Activities are designed to be fun but some have an educational/serious message to them such as the science bases, graffiti wall and a game brought in by the RNLI.

With all that goes on it is not surprising it took nearly two years to organise Scoutabout 2011. It won’t be long before the team start thinking about Scoutabout 2014!



All the hard work paid off!

Out, Loud and Proud are a group of young women from Runnymede supported by Surrey Youth Development Service who are running a heritage project focussing on the impact of the Holocaust and World War Two on the European Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

“We left Chertsey at 3am in the pouring rain. A few hours later glorious sunshine and temperatures of 34 degrees greeted us as we landed in Krakow, Poland. After 2 years of hard work, determination, planning and fundraising we couldn’t believe that we had actually arrived! The bus journey from the airport to the hostel gave us our first glimpses of a beautiful country that has survived so much.

During our stay we undertook research about the Holocaust and the experiences of those who were persecuted and those who survived. We visited museums, places of worship and memorials.

We also went to Auschwitz and Birkenau. Before leaving the UK we had thought about what we thought the camps would be like. We had read descriptions and seen photographs. We had mixed feelings while we were there. The heat, sunshine and hundreds of other visitors meant that we didn’t experience the eerie quietness that we had expected. However we were all affected in different ways and by different things. Seeing the living conditions, photographs of people who were killed, displays of children’s clothes, spectacles,

suitcases, shoes, other possessions and piles human hair all moved us. Our guide was brilliant and we realised that there was so much to learn and many people’s stories are still untold.

While we were in Krakow we also visited the Salt Mines that contain amazing carvings made by the miners. The underground church complete with chandeliers was an awesome sight.



We learnt so much during our visit to Krakow. We are now working on an education pack for use by schools and youth projects and preserving our work within the LGBT archive at Surrey History Centre.”

To find out more about the project, please contact Nikki Parkhill, Youth Development Worker (LGBTQ) on 07976 974742: nikki.parkhill@surreycc.gov.uk or

Gemma Rutter, Neighbourhood Youth Worker (Addlestone) on 01932 857690 gemma.rutter@surreycc.gov.uk

You can also contact the group directly by emailing them at outloudandproud@hotmail.co.uk

Mike’s Blog

Check out Mike Abbott, Chief Executive of Surrey Youth Focus weekly words of wisdom at <http://surreyyouthfocus.blogspot.com>



Rachel Thomson wins the Reigate & Redhill YMCA's Red Lion Pub Boccia award

The YMCA Boccia club runs on Saturday from 12:30 - 1:30pm at the YMCA in Redhill and is open to anyone with a disability.

14 year old Rachel Thompson was chosen for the Award by the YMCA coaches for her continued development as a Boccia player. Rachel has cerebral palsy and has been playing Boccia for nearly 8 years. She loves the social interaction that comes with being a part of a team. Boccia is the only sport in which she can fully participate and she has made many close friends amongst her fellow players.

The landlord and regulars of the Red Lion Pub in Redhill held an auction, raffle and

karaoke night to raise £2,870 which they donated to the YMCA's Boccia Club. This was used to purchase club T-shirts, which the children designed themselves, and the shield which has become the Red Lion Pub Boccia Award and is given each term to the most outstanding player.

The coaches also purchased some new playing equipment and individual Skills Awards that the children can work towards at their own pace.



For more information about the Boccia club contact Rita Wright or Katie Gatt on 01737 779979.

A FACELIFT FOR FURZEFIELD

The four and five year olds at Furzeffield School foundation stage have been treated to a garden and outside area makeover this month.

A team of 13 young men and women took on the community based project, clearing weeds, cutting down over-grown shrubs and building raised flower and vegetable beds over the course of one week. They also designed and painted a colourful cartoon mural on one of the school's outbuildings.

Five of the young people taking part in the Prince's Trust run project are currently homed at the YMCA's Hillbrook House in Redhill.

"We are very proud of our residents for the wonderful work that they have done at Furzeffield school," said Adam Brooks, Housing Manager for the Reigate and Redhill YMCA. "They are coming back enthused, energised and full of ideas. As a housing project focussing on preparing young people for independent living, we jump at the chances and experiences that the Princes Trust offers. They really do make a long term difference in the lives of those who take part."

The young men and women were involved in every step of the Furzeffield school project and suggested car washes,

cake sales and supermarket bag packing, among other ideas, to raise the funds that were needed.

"We are delighted with the results," said Mel Roberts, Foundation Stage Leader at Furzeffield School. "This offer of help was far too good to turn down and I am particularly thrilled with the vegetable and herb gardens. The group also suggested that our three, four and five year olds added their hand prints to the painted mural as leaves on a tree and that was a great idea – the children loved getting mucky!"

Jack Deith, 19, was part of the makeover team and has been living at Hillbrook House for 5 months. He already has a work experience placement lined up for when he completes the course.

"I have been trying to get into employment for ages," said Jack. "It's so hard to apply for jobs if you don't have a permanent address for post and to have a solid base of my own now is fantastic."

YMCA staff at Hillbrook House create an Action Plan to assist the residents in receiving the financial, mental, physical or educational backup they need to move forward with their lives.

"Our aim here is to provide safe, secure and affordable accommodation, while helping our residents get back on their feet," says Adam Brooks. "The YMCA greatly values the positive impact the Prince's Trust has in the lives of its residents and local young people. The course is delivered by Guildford YMCA and we look forward to a long and continuing partnership with them, supporting young people to independence."



Jack Deith painting the mural

THAMES DITTON GIRLGUIDING VOLUNTEER AWARDED MBE



Bronach Hughes, a Brownie and Guide Leader and mentor for new volunteers in Thames Ditton, has been awarded an MBE for her voluntary services to Girlguiding UK. Bronach has been volunteering for 15 years and her past roles have included Division Commissioner for Esher.

Bronach was presented with the MBE by the Princess Royal - at a ceremony in the Waterloo



Chamber of Windsor Castle. Bronach was impressed that the Princess Royal spent time speaking with each recipient: "We talked about Brownies and Guides as the Princess was both as a child. She suggested I could bring the medal to a Brownie meeting so the girls could polish it for me and we joked that there

must be a badge for the girls for doing that!" *Girlguiding UK is always looking for volunteers. To get involved call 0800 1695901 or visit www.girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk*



“Next to doing the right thing, the most important thing is to let people know you are doing the right thing”

John D Rockefeller

Dont miss your opportunity to tell everyone you are doing the right thing.

Send your articles and photos for the next copy of Surrey Youth News to kate.peters@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk



**Next Copy Deadline
January 23rd 2012**

Astolat, Coniers Way
New Inn Lane
Burpham
Guildford GU4 7HL
01483 453962
admin@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk
www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk
www.doyouthwork.com
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SurreyYF>
Blog: <http://surreyyouthfocus.blogspot.com>



Mike Abbott	Chief Executive
Karen Moore	Information Officer
Kate Peters	Member Services Manager
Marie Silvester	Youth Development Worker

President Designate: Lord Baden-Powell
Vice Presidents: John Walshe DL
Jenny Griffiths OBE

Patrons:

Mrs Sarah Goad JP Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey	Professor Michael Joy OBE High Sheriff of Surrey 2011/12	Mrs Lavinia Sealey Chairman Surrey County Council
The Rt Rev The Bishop of Guildford Representing Faith Communities	Professor Christopher Snowden Vice-Chancellor University of Surrey	Mark Rowley Chief Constable of Surrey

Company Limited by Guarentee No 7531644 Registered Charity No: 1140934

Affiliated to the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services