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# Surrey Youth News

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## “Opportunities”

The May edition of Surrey Youth News speculated about whether the financial and organisational change facing the voluntary and public sectors presents a “Challenge or an Opportunity?” This editorial is about the new opportunities that are available, even while we wrestle with difficult financial and organisational change around us. So what are these opportunities?

Surrey Youth Consortium was launched at Proctor and Gamble’s offices on 17 September and we wish members of this important initiative well.

The Guildford Diocese has produced a superb report on the impact of the faith sector in the south-east –“The Hidden Contribution” see [www.se-faithforum.net](http://www.se-faithforum.net). This quantifies the economic and social contribution made by the faith sector, and its contribution to “The Big Society”. More than half of Surrey Youth Focus members are from a faith background.

Talking of the Big Society, the number of social enterprises continues to grow, and we in Surrey Youth Focus are working with partners in the business community to set up three small social enterprises aimed at providing employment to unemployed young people.

Social impact bonds have attracted a lot of media attention recently, and a paper about these will be ready for the next issue (and on our website). Surrey Youth Focus has close connections to a London based charity called Community Links who are amongst the leaders in this innovative field of social policy.

Finally, the National Council for Voluntary and Community Services (NCVYS) has won a Government grant to provide capacity building training to the voluntary youth sector. The scheme is called “Progress”, and further details are inside. The training opportunities will be widely publicised from next month, and will highly relevant to the voluntary sector.

So, despite everything, there are opportunities for those who are prepared to seek them out.

Mike Abbott  
Chief Executive  
Surrey Youth Focus

Anthony Durno  
Head of Youth Development Service  
Surrey County Council

## “Progress”

“Progress” is the name of a national project (£3.8m) being delivered by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) on behalf of CWDC’s Young People’s Workforce Reform Programme Board. The purpose of Progress is to build workforce capacity by enhancing the skills and training of those working with young people in the voluntary and community sector.

Research identified the following priorities to support integrated working in the children and young people sector, covering both frontline delivery and organisational capacity-building:

- Facilitating learning and development of young people.
- Safeguarding the health and welfare of young people.
- Maintaining health and safety in the workplace.
- Promoting access to information and support.
- Promoting equality and the valuing of diversity.

These priorities are likely to translate into thematic courses like Ptlls (Preparing to teach in the lifelong learning (post 16) sector, or popularly known as “Petals”), Assessor training, Safeguarding, and specific accredited courses across a wide range of skills, and client groups.

The overall purpose of Progress is to give opportunities to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector nationally, by offering 25,000 accredited training opportunities for volunteers and paid staff covering the above five priority training areas. Employers and leaders who choose to use the project will benefit by enhancing the capacity of their organisations to develop their workforce. Staff and volunteers who choose the training should improve their capacity to meet the needs of young people. The training is accredited, and can be used flexibly to build towards qualifications at the discretion of learners.

Surrey Youth Focus supported the NCVYS bid, and with colleagues in East and West Sussex CVYS are acting as the Regional Delivery Agents in the south-east or in other words the training commissioners.

The training will not be free, but it is heavily subsidised and does represent a great opportunity for voluntary sector organizations, and individual workers (paid or volunteer) to upskill themselves.

There will be more about this available on the Surrey Youth Focus website during October – the programme of “offers” will only last until the end of March – hence this early notification.

Mike Abbott, Surrey Youth Focus.

## NEW - The Rendezvous Saturday Club!

The Rendezvous Saturday Club is a flexible club offering opportunities to develop new friendships, interests and out and about activities for 13 to 18 years olds who have a physical disability or are on the Autistic Spectrum. The club will meet on Saturdays at Rendezvous, White Lodge centre, Holloway Hill, Chertsey, Surrey KY16 OAE. A six hour session costs £14.00. For more details, please contact Gill Tuck on 01932 577961 or email [gtuck@whitelodgecentre.co.uk](mailto:gtuck@whitelodgecentre.co.uk)



## Introducing Sophie Web - Future Jobs Fund trainee

Hi Everyone, my name is Sophie Webb and I have just recently begun working for Surrey Youth Focus as a ‘Future Jobs Fund’ trainee. The ‘Future Jobs Fund’ helps unemployed young adults between 18 and 24 years old gain experience and training to improve their job prospects. The programme also includes seven days worth of training over a period of six months which aim to improve my team building skills and provide other positive skills for future jobs.



So far I am really enjoying my position at Surrey Youth Focus cleaning up the members database so we can conduct a members survey and helping with other projects. I received such a warm welcome. I work Monday to Thursday from 9:00 until 16:00.

In the future, I hope to join the Police and I am currently in training for that particular role. At the moment there is an extremely high volume of applicants for the police meaning that it is now impossible to go straight into being a Police Constable. The first step is to become a Special Constable. This is a voluntary position where you have the same responsibilities as a Police Constable, but it’s more like a trial period and training. I am currently awaiting my second fitness test which I need to pass to be accepted into this position.

I am very excited about the next six months with Surrey Youth Focus and following that, my career in the Police.

Sophie Webb [sophie.webb@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk](mailto:sophie.webb@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk) 01483 453962

## Could you employ a Future Jobs Fund Trainee?

*There are still opportunities for employers to take on young people for employment especially in the key unemployment hotspots of Merstham and Preston in Reigate and Banstead, Old Dean in Surreyheath, and Westborough and Stoke in Guildford.*

*The Future Jobs Fund pays the employees salary plus oncosts thereby offering a free resource to your organisation as well as valuable experience for the young person. For more information contact Kate Barry at Surrey County Council: [kate.barry@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:kate.barry@surreycc.gov.uk) or [FJF@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:FJF@surreycc.gov.uk)*



### Mike’s Blog

Mike Abbott, Chief Executive of Surrey Youth Focus has launched a blog and updates it on a weekly basis.

Please go to: <http://surreyyouthfocus.blogspot.com/>

# Awards for the County's Brightest and Best

Skilled and talented young people from across Surrey gathered at County Hall on 6th September for the annual Surrey County Scholars and Surrey County Apprentices/Diploma awards ceremony, organised by Surrey SATRO. Awards were presented to students by The High Sheriff of Surrey, Mr. Rob Douglas, CBE, and the Chairman of Surrey County Council, Mr. Geoff Marlow.



Five 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 of their hard work and outstanding achievements.



**Charlotte Allan** from Brooklands College, and employed by Duncans of Byfleet, was named 'Surrey County Apprentice of the Year'.

Mr. Tim Wates presented awards to Surrey Diploma Students who have successfully passed their examinations in construction engineering, plumbing and vocational courses but do not have a company to employ them. The award is supported by the Wates Family Holdings.



**Remi Ward** from East Surrey College was named Surrey County Diploma Student of the Year.

Paying tribute to all of the nominated students, The High Sheriff 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. Innovative schemes like ours in Surrey go a long way in helping to meet this need"*.

Gordon Cockburn, MBE, Development Director of Surrey County Scholars, said, *"No other County in the UK does so much to help students develop their skills and gain real experience. ... 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 Apprentice/ Diploma Student Schemes, please contact Gordon Cockburn or Linda Thompson at Surrey SATRO on 01483 226322



The 2010 **Celebration of Youth** was opened by John Walshe DL Vice President who then handed over to Mike Abbott to comper the evening and introduce the acts and presentations.



It was a lively evening with musical talent from Vinolved and Banstead Youth Club and dancing from The Girls Brigade. There were insights into the work of St. John Ambulance, The Studio ADHD Centre and Learning Through Action while testimonials from Surrey Young Carers brought home the strength of some young people in Surrey.



Great humour was provided by the GASP motor project who brought a go-kart onstage put together in their workshop.

The evening ended with the Surrey Army Cadets Corps of Drums giving an expert display of marching and playing, and then the lights were dimmed to ultra violet to show up the "Black Light Show" of the drummers' sticks in the green and white light. It was an impressive way to end an enjoyable evening that did truly celebrate the achievements of Surrey's young people.



We also thank the stall holders who put in the effort to have their display stands ready to impress the visitors and VIPs before the show.

Special mention must go to Bisley Parish Youth Council who did so much work in planning the event and in coordinating the acts on the night. The event was such a success we were asked to start work on another show immediately for 2011 in Runnymede.



So, if you missed out this time you will have a chance to get involved in the next Celebration.

Watch this space!



## The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme - Challenging Everyone

### Ridgeway Community School Expedition

This was our first attempt at Duke of Edinburgh with our Special Needs group. The prospect was daunting but with a lot of thought we managed to adapt situations to allow for their special needs and they were soon involved with map reading, volunteering, skills and expeditions.

We managed our overnight camp incorporating a seven and a half mile walk navigating our way through the Surrey woodlands. The students completed their task with a great sense of achievement and self worth. The camaraderie between them was obvious and the staff finished the expedition with a sense of pride in all of them. Janet Jones from Ridgeway School - janet@ridgeway.surrey.sch.uk



### The Benefit of having the 'Off Road Wheelchair'

On Sunday 14th of March I took part in the training day for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

I am a pupil at The Ashcombe School in Dorking and am keen to participate in as many activities as I can. However, having a physical disability I am sometimes limited as to the things that I can take part in. Being able to use the 'Off Road Wheel chair' made it possible for me to attend the training day and hopefully I will be able to continue to do so.

I was surprised at how nimble and comfortable it was and I was able to maintain my energy levels to contribute to other tasks like navigating. I feel that without this wheelchair, the whole exercise would have been unmanageable. We had no major problems with the wheelchair it worked well on all terrain and with it being lightweight, when we got stuck there was no problem.

I believe that it is important for disabled and able-bodied young people to be able to participate in activities together. It gives able-bodied people an extra dimension and an insight into the difficulties faced by those with disabilities. Along with this it enables the disabled person to be prepared to ask for any help and to be integrated within a group.

I was really glad to have the opportunity to use the off road wheelchair and do hope I'll be able to do so again.

George Fielding

Ashcombe School Dorking

George is the only wheelchair user in a group of 100+ doing their Bronze Award. The wheelchair was borrowed from the manufacturers - 'TREKINETIC All Terrain' in Hemel Hempstead for the Training Day in March. Since then SCC have purchased a number of these innovative wheelchairs, a few are now kept at High Ashurst - only 3 or 4 miles from the school.

Allison Griffiths - Duke of Edinburgh's Award Interim Manager Youth Development Service SCC 07966 819607



vinvolvedsurrey

### Paint a Smile! An inter generational art project

A group of creative young people came together to spend three days using their skills to create pieces of artwork with a group of elderly people from Elmfield House, an elderly care home in Bisley, Woking. The inter generational art project is the second of four youth-led projects, funded through Woking Borough Council's Youth Opportunity Fund. It has really impacted this local community and been an enriching experience for the elderly residents, staff at the care home and the group of young people involved.

When asked what the young people had learnt, one volunteer replied that she had discovered it is so easy to make someone smile, and realised that just a little bit of volunteering goes a long way



and is very rewarding. Another young volunteer, Selina Khoo added, "I've learnt that elderly people can be very funny indeed and that they're just like us; age doesn't matter. I want to carry on volunteering for projects such as this one - it's been a great opportunity!"

Volunteers, including Selina, noted that they had learnt new communication skills and empathy through interaction with the elderly people over the few days spent at Elmfield House.

The project offered young and elderly people a chance to relate to people of different ages who they would not normally meet. An elderly resident, John, really enjoyed spending a day painting with a local student, Gabie. He said, "I shall keep this painting as a reminder of the great time that I spent with this lovely young lady."

Many of the volunteers are now looking forward to getting involved in more volunteering projects. Lee-Anne mentioned that she will definitely do more charity work in the future as it has opened up her mind to many opportunities and prospects for other volunteering as well as her future career. Another volunteer summed up the experience, "Everyone had a fabulous time and I'm really looking forward to the next project!"



The next two art projects will be taking place in Shepperton and Farnham during October half term and young people can apply through [www.surreyinvolved.org](http://www.surreyinvolved.org)

## Guildford Youth Council

August brought the final of 2010 Guildford youth Council's (GYC) Battle of the Bands. It was held at the Electric theatre on the 8th August from 19.00 – 22.30. The sub-committee of 4 GYC members had meticulously planned this years event with the support of the Youth Council coordinator and



Gareth Palmer, Youth Development worker – Arts, to hold 4 heats between May and end of July culminating in a terrific final contested by the winners of each heat and judged by a panel of 4 including Simon Cowell MBE (no, not that one) wildlife campaigner and host of TV's Wildlife SOS. Matty Russell from the Plantation Café and Tom Cattermole from SYDS.

Over 150 people came to see the final and cheer along their favourites. This years winner was Black Iris. Congratulations to them, they won the £200 worth of Andertons music vouchers donated by Lee Anderton.

## Making a Difference At Ash Youth Centre

The young people from Ash Youth Centre were recently asked to get involved with a street cleaning new initiative run by Guildford Borough Council to advertise gum target posters called Gum Targets around the Ash community. Three young people jumped at the chance to be involved with the opportunity to try out the new targets and meet the Deputy Major Marsha Moseley.

We had a fun and very busy summer with a five week programme. The summer activities took place with outreach in the Ash community on Monday evenings, trips on Tuesdays & Thursdays and a drop-in session at Ash Youth Centre on Wednesday evenings. Young people enjoyed the activities which incorporated some healthy and sporty activities such as bowling, indoor rock-climbing at Craggy Island, laser quest and a bmx-ing session where we hired the Skaterham indoor skate



park for the afternoon. The group put their bikes through their paces, worked hard to challenge themselves to learn new skills and try out new jumps.

Other trips that took place was a leisurely trip along the River Wey aboard the SOLD canal barge Angel Blue, young people thoroughly enjoyed sailing the barge and working the locks through Guildford.



## Bushy Hill Activity Scheme – Schools out for summer

70 children and young people took part in the activities put on in Bushy Hill this summer. Surrey Youth Justice Service, Surrey Youth Development Service, Guildford Borough Council Play Rangers, The Matrix Trust and Surrey Police worked together as an exercise in co-production to create an opportunity to highlight options available to young people locally and in the wider town.

The Demopod was available Monday to Thursday, which was a great success. Many young people took the opportunity to create their own music using state of the art technology.

There were also drum/bongo workshops, art activities problem solving games run by SCC, football run by Matrix Trust and camp fires run by the Guildford Borough Council Play Ranger



It was also an opportunity to identify future work particularly with individual young people. For example one young woman had a truly amazing voice and the Youth Development Service have followed this up by getting her to a recording studio to do a demo CD that she can use towards getting into college. Other young people we worked with were not in education, employment or training and some were young parents, again we were able to signpost them to existing groups.

## Babes at Butlins

As part of the Babes and Babes group nine young mums organised a trip away to Butlins Holiday Resort in Bognor Regis.

They wanted an opportunity to get away with their children and felt that this would enable them to have time and space in a non judgemental environment where they were able to be honest and open about the feelings and issues they all faced. The residential gave them confidence to explore coping strategies for any emotional challenges they might face. They felt it was a really positive experience and learnt negotiation, decision making, team building and parenting skills. The young mums felt empowered by the experience as a parent, and particularly one of our younger mums. Those who had completed their mentoring course were able to put their new skills into practice, supporting independence both for themselves and the younger first time mums.



This work went towards their ASDAN CoPE award.

Tryphaena McAllister  
tryphaena.mcallister@surreycc.gov.uk



At GASP Motor Project we are steaming ahead delivering courses on basic motor mechanical engineering for young people between the ages of 14 and 19. We are providing them with an opportunity to learn something about themselves that neither they nor their schools – and often parents – had begun to recognise. It is now well recognised that the GASP experience offers much when it comes to building self-esteem and an ability to work as a member of a team.

### Lord-Lieutenant visits.

In early September, we welcomed the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs. Sarah Goad JP, to the Workshop. She had been so impressed by the presentation by young people attending GASP at the Celebration of Youth event at Farnham in July that she asked to come and see for herself!

The GASP morning 2-3 hour sessions are for young people from right across Surrey, for whom an alternative learning experience is key to their educational and personal development. To date GASP Motor Project has contracted to deliver such an experience to the ISSP programme at Surrey Youth Justice Service, Catch 22, ALP, and, most recently, to The Studio ADHD Centre. Word is spreading fast that what GASP Motor Project offers is truly helping young people to find something that really engages their interest and shows them a possible way forward when deciding on a

career.

The evening sessions that are held three times a week are for more local youngsters. They provide a leisure-time activity for those who are keen to learn about the internal combustion engine and to build track and off-rod karts which they can then drive at Dunsfold or through private woodlands to which GASP has access.

### GASPing for a Treasurer!

Our marvelous volunteer Treasurer is about to add twins to her existing family – which is good news for her but, not surprisingly, she feels that she cannot continue to handle the GASP Motor Project accounts so that is the bad news for us! We therefore are URGENTLY seeking someone with an accountancy background to come and join us – a happy band of volunteers doing something so very worthwhile. Whilst GASP Motor Project is based in Gomshall, location is not an issue. If, by any chance, someone reading this feels inclined to learn more, please contact either Sally Varah on 01306 731284 [varah.shrieval@btinternet.com](mailto:varah.shrieval@btinternet.com) or Anthony Cassidy on 01483 202138 [aac@cassant.demon.co.uk](mailto:aac@cassant.demon.co.uk).



Despite our students taking a well-deserved summer break, The Orpheus Centre has still been busy, with young people and associate artists coming in to take part in our short courses which cover everything from rock music to rabbits.

Our latest show was a collaboration with Project Phakama, an arts organisation producing work based on the combined personal experiences of young people from all over the world. The two groups put together an interactive performance exploring memories of past journeys and adventures. The show featured suitcases, fireworks and the appearance of a giant 6 foot rabbit!



Our students are now back for a brand new term, and we are very pleased to welcome a host of new faces. They have a very exciting year ahead of them, with a richly diverse learning programme covering everything from multimedia and visual art classes to week long courses in hip hop and world music. Every aspect of these sessions are focused on teaching our students life skills and confidence in order to live an independent life after their 3 years with us.

### Coming Up Next:

**World Music Night.** Friday 22nd October 7.30pm @ The Orpheus Centre Barn Theatre The Orpheus Centre, North Park Lane, Surrey, RH9 8ND [www.orpheus.org.uk](http://www.orpheus.org.uk)

This new show mixes music from an assortment of cultures, with added Orpheus flair. Expect instruments and influences from every continent, as you embark on a global expedition like no other. Tickets: £8/£6 concession, available on 01883 744664



*Are you aged between 11 and 19?  
Do you live in or attend a school in Runnymede?  
Are you passionate about your Community?*

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, why not join the Runnymede Youth Council. This is a great opportunity to get the voice of young people heard by the Borough Councillors, County Councillors and everyone living or working in the Borough.

We aim to make Runnymede a better and safer area for young people to live, work, play and go to school by inviting you, the young people of Runnymede, to join the Youth Council.

To find out more please look at the Youth Council page on [www.rbcyouth.co.uk](http://www.rbcyouth.co.uk) or call 01932 425688

## Services for young people play against young people

As part of the Frimley Youth Group project, the Youth Development Service and Youth Justice Service have been working in partnership with a targeted group of young people to explore and develop project ideas to gain both public confidence and to build relationships with the young people and the police following a turnaround in anti social behaviours. Ideas have included a football match at Frimley Lodge Park, community payback projects, fundraising and a garden project at the Youth Centre

Following a plea to colleagues from Leigh Kinch (Youth Justice Service), Zak Flannigan (transformation team) and myself, an 11-a-side football team was found to play the Frimley Boys as part of the Frimley Green Youth Club summer programme at Frimley Lodge Park.



The football match was a success with the young people organising and arranging their own team, setting up the field ready to play and show good team spirit and sportsmanship throughout the match. The final score was 2:1 to Services for Young People! Everyone is keen to arrange a return match in September. If any other youth clubs have a football team who would like to play the Frimley Boys, please let me know.

Jo Heath (07968833988 / jo.heath@surreycc.gov.uk

## Surrey Heath Young Parents complete the D of E challenge....

A group of young parents in Surrey Heath committed their summer to developing a spirit of adventure and discovery, by planning and completing an adventurous journey on bikes in the New Forest.

With support from James at Henley Fort and Gavin Kitchen, the young parents group completed a full Duke of Edinburgh training course and a practice expedition in the Guildford area before completing the expedition in the New Forest.

For the young parents, there was an increased personal challenge as after travelling on bike with all their stuff, they would arrive back at camp and would then have to look after their children - the youngest child only being eight weeks old.



For the youth worker at the camp, the challenge of looking after the children was surpassed by that of preventing Dartmoor's wild ponies horses from destroying the camp and frightening the children!

Gavin Kitchen commented on the differences the residential made to the group "It has been great to observe the young people grow in confidence during this expedition. They have faced challenges together and worked together to overcome those challenges."

Lauren, one of the young parents commented "This is one of the best things and the greatest challenge I have ever done and am so proud of myself and the group that we achieved it. As a group we definitely have got closer and have realised each other's strengths and how if we can all come together we can achieve so much".

## Nag Panchami!

This August the Chobham youth group took part in the Hindu snake festival Nag Panchami, in a small ceremony and photocall to raise funds for the Monsoon victims at Chessington world of adventures! Young people faced their fears in snakes meet and greets and watched as the Hindu Priest was hoisted by a crane to the head of Chessingtons' 75ft totem Cobra statue, where he conducted a ceremony which included placing a garland of flowers and rose petals over the Cobra head, milk, honey and incense. Young people learned about the Hindu tradition interactively and were amazed how revered the snake is to the Hindu faith and how it depicts the snake gods as having power over rainfall. Young people spent the rest of the day in the park free of charge-having an amazing day out!

The young people seemed to grow in confidence when overcoming their fears holding and touching the snakes and taking part in a cultural event, far out of their "ordinary" lives. Many of the young people had never been to a theme park before so lots of new skills were developed and experiences shared.

## FGYC offers alternative education programme for young women....

Body Image, self esteem, stress, healthy eating and exercise have been part of the busy programme for the eight week "Girls" course this term run by youth workers at Frimley Green Youth Centre.

Six targeted young women from various schools across Surrey Heath who have a variety of different issues that impact on their education (including non-attendance, drug and alcohol abuse, food phobia and agoraphobia) have worked together to explore and understand issues that may affect women including women in culture, women in history as well as taking part in practical activities including cooking, ice skating and street dance.

For some of the group, the issues were quite challenging and impacted on their daily life but working in a small nurturing and supportive group enabled the youth workers to devote some individual attention and support and work around and overcome some of the issues the young people face. All six of the girls have completed their portfolios and hopefully will give them six credit for their "Step Up" OCN qualifications.

For more info about the work of the Surrey Heath YDS team please contact:		
<b>Gavin Kitchen</b>	<i>Youth Development Officer</i>	07968 832425
<b>Jo Heath:</b>	<i>Frimley, Frimley Green, Mytchett, Deepcut, St. Michaels and Young Parents</i>	07968 833988
<b>Ciaran Cleasby</b>	<i>Camberley, Old Dean and Heatherside</i>	07968 833965



## A year of celebrations



### Girl Guides from Surrey West join Girlguiding UK's Summer Centenary Celebrations

Guides from Claygate and Englefield Green were among Guides from Surrey West who took part in an action-packed week of fun and adventure in August at the largest camp ever organised by Girlguiding UK.

The Surrey West Guides were among thousands of other UK girls and young women on site, who were joined by 750 Guides, Girl Scouts and their leaders from 40 different countries worldwide. A volunteer staff team made up the total of people on site to around 5,000.



The Chief Guide, Liz Burnley CBE, said: "The Centenary Camp is a major part of our celebrations this year and has given thousands of girls the chance to spend a week of their summer holiday under the stars. Not only have they taken part in an activity that has been part of the movement for the last one hundred years they have also been able to choose which new and adventurous activities they want to experience with girls from around the world. The camp embodies all of the values of Girlguiding UK and I'm certain that everyone who attended had a unique experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

### Surrey East Guide & Senior Section Camp



From Sunday 25th to Friday 30th July, nearly 500 Guides and Senior Section Members plus nearly 200 Leaders, attended the 'Now and Then 2010' Centenary Camp at Foxlease in the New Forest. The girls had hundreds of activities to do, in zones ranging from the start of girlguiding in 2010 to the present time, and included lots of outdoor activities such as High Ropes, Low Ropes, Abseiling, Rock Climbing, Ice Skating, Zip Wire and many more.

Veronica Ballard

### Girl Guiding Surrey West Centenary Channel Swim Success

At 2.53am on Monday 2nd August, Lindsay Porter, the first member of the relay team left the beach at Samphire Hoe, Folkestone to begin the Team Twenty-Ten Channel Crossing.

For the first 3 hours the swimmers coped with rough water and darkness. Later in the day although the conditions improved there were jellyfish to swim through and some very large ferries and tankers to ignore!

The team of 6 had ranged in age from 16-33, with a mixture of Senior Section Guides and Guide Leaders. Each member swam for an hour and then had to climb back on board the boat, get dry, eat, rest and prepare for the next swim. The 18 months of training and preparation paid off with incredible determination and encouragement from the crew and support team, the swim was successfully completed close to the Cap Blanc Nez some 15 hours and 24 minutes after Lindsay left Samphire Hoe.



And that's not the end of it, as, bitten by the bug, at least two of the team are now planning their solo attempts for sometime soon. This has been a massive challenge but incredibly worthwhile.

Julia Jones - Centenary Champion Girl Guiding Surrey West. [office@girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk](mailto:office@girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk)  
For more information about opportunities in Guiding visit [www.girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk)



Are you interested in Babysitting?

Are you already Babysitting?

We will be holding a Babysitting Course at Woking Red Cross Centre for young people who would like to start babysitting.

The course covers:

1. Introduction, expectations, rights, and the law – what are potential expectations of you as a babysitter?
2. Accident prevention and fire safety – be aware of potential safety problems and recognise hazards
3. Looking after babies and children – understand the importance of holding babies and children
4. First aid – develop skills and knowledge of what to do in life threatening and minor injuries
5. Dealing with challenging situations – develop social skills, confidence and assertiveness in dealing with difficult situations.

The course dates are 26th and 27th October 2010, 9am – 5:30pm each day. The cost is £40 per participant. Youth Groups and Schools can also choose to run their own course – the pack costs £35.

If you require further information or would like to book a place contact Sara Cotton, Youth & Schools Co-ordinator at [saracotton@redcross.org.uk](mailto:saracotton@redcross.org.uk) or on 07595651205, or visit: [www.redcross.org.uk/babysitting](http://www.redcross.org.uk/babysitting)

Young people at the STEPS Woking Learning Centre, run by the alternative education charity, Surrey Care Trust, will be showcasing their work at an open day on November 17th.

The centre, at Wayside on Goldsworth Park, provides an Under 16s education programme for young

people in years 10 and 11 who are no longer attending mainstream school.

“This is an opportunity for the young people to introduce family and friends to the learning centre and for the Surrey Care Trust to demonstrate what it is achieving in giving a second chance to students who had a troubled time in mainstream school,” said marketing and communications officer Jennifer Britt.

“We always invite our supporters and all kinds of people with an interest in our work, including local mayors and councillors, and teachers from the schools who refer students to us. For the young people it can be quite a socially daunting occasion but they always rise to the challenge very gracefully.”

The Under 16s programme is now being run from Woking and Staines, after the Surrey Care Trust reluctantly made the decision to close its third centre at Redhill following recent changes to Connexions funding which is now focused on work with young people aged 16 and over.

The Trust’s Redhill STEPS Ahead programme for 16 to 18 year-olds, based at Hillbrook House, is unaffected. We anticipate being able to accommodate the under-16s who were due to start at Redhill this September at the Woking Centre.

## Swingbridge

The Trust is also involved in a new scheme which is using the great outdoors and local rivers and canals as a “classroom” to bring out the talents and enthusiasm of young people.

Surrey Care Trust is working with the National Community Boats Association (NCBA) to run the Community Boat Leadership Programme. Young people will be trained in various aspects of boat handling and learn about the waterway environment. The aim is to help them develop personal skills that will stand them in good stead in their future lives, while also encouraging them to become champions of boating as a community benefit.

To find out more about the Woking Learning Centre open day or opportunities on board the Swingbridge boats, call 01483 426990 or visit [www.surreycaretrust.org.uk](http://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk).

## Building the Future with Halow

The **halow** project is about to welcome a new team for the Building Futures Programme with a fun induction day set for the end of September.

Building Futures is a specially designed course aimed at young people with a learning disability aged between 18 and 25. We work together with, Employability, Just Advocacy, Guildford College,



Surrey Youth Development Services, Adult and Community Learning and Aiming High, to provide the young people with a variety of learning experiences aimed at enabling them to make informed decisions about their future.

The last Building Futures group celebrated their end of year with a brilliant prom night at the YMCA in Guildford. The evening kicked off with live music played by local covers band The Beagles and a great time was had by all. We would like to say a big thank you to The YMCA for donating the space and to the Beagles for providing a brilliant night’s entertainment. We would like to welcome Lucy Williams, who recently joined halow as the new Building Futures Assistant, working together with Sara Doneux, halow’s Building Futures Co-ordinator.

There are still a couple of places available so if you know of anyone who might benefit from this course, please contact us at the office on 01483 447960.



## Introducing the Community Film Unit



There is now a unique community-based production company working within Surrey County Council. The Community Film Unit (CFU) began in May 2010 as a social enterprise creating short films for the County Council and external partners such as the NHS. The unit seeks to use the medium of film to empower young people and the community, capturing their views and opinions.

Productions created by the CFU include:

- An Olympic demonstration video
- A training DVD for new Surrey employees
- Measles Awareness DVD for the NHS

If you would like to promote or create publicity for a project, raise awareness about a specific issue or cause or produce training material, the CFU has the ability to do this for you. With a growing portfolio of productions, the team can create high quality films at a reduced cost.

The team is currently made up of people employed through the Future Jobs Fund initiative with specialist knowledge of webs design, photography, film and music. The team are currently based at the Leacroft centre in Staines. You can follow them on facebook (search for Community Film Unit) or via their website [www.communityfilming.moonfruit.com](http://www.communityfilming.moonfruit.com). For further information please contact Mathew. [joblin@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:joblin@surreycc.gov.uk), 07531 449 921.



## There's a real buzz at High Ashurst Outdoor Centre

Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) are very pleased to announce that the new eco-friendly residential blocks and the main block containing the dining hall and training room are up and running. It was a rush to get it ready for the first booking, a multi-national group of young people from Germany, Italy and Woking on a cultural exchange / conservation programme, however the feedback from the leaders was very positive and the young people made the most of the new facilities.

These new facilities have really lifted the atmosphere of the Centre at High Ashurst giving it a much more modern and sophisticated feel. Even the staff who have lived through the changes can't believe the impact this development has had and there is a real buzz to the place. We have however retained the remote and wooded feel and whenever I bring a new group to the site, the leaders are amazed that such a place exists in the middle of busy Surrey.

SOLD has received an 'Aiming High' grant to build another Cabin adapted for the needs of more severely disabled young people and work has started on this, with a December completion target. Along with our purpose built, very high tech, 'off-road' wheelchairs and improved access to the ropes and challenge courses, this new accommodation will mean we can offer a much-improved experience for disabled young people.

The new climbing tower is nearing completion. This is going to be an awe-inspiring experience. It's massive! I feel anyone who gets to the top deserves a medal! But never fear, there are routes and grades for everyone. It's designed for use by disabled young people and there's abseiling as well!

If you have visited or used High Ashurst before, we would really encourage you to come and soak up the new, fresh atmosphere and talk to the staff about what we can now offer. If you have never been to visit, now would be great time to do so. We are holding 'Open Days' on the afternoons of Friday 8th October and Saturday 9th October, between 2 - 5pm. However you are welcome to arrange a site visit at any time to suit you – just get in touch.

High Ashurst is on Box Hill, near Dorking.

For more information contact the Bookings Team by email to [outdoor.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.learning@surreycc.gov.uk) or on 01372 378901



## Youth Development Service in Mole Valley

Over 2 years ago a group of young people from Capel village identified a lack of resources for young people in the village and with the support of Mole Valley YDS they successfully bid for Youth opportunity Funding.

Their aim was to purchase a Multi Use Games Area and with further successful bids to Mole Valley local committee funding, Mole Valley Housing Association and others they have finally achieved their goal, with the MUGA built on Capel Recreation Ground and launched on August 21st at the Capel Classic Car & Flower Show

Suzanne Cannon - Senior Borough Administrator Mole Valley 0796 8833 609  
& Mulberry Centre Manager 01306 887974



## PEER Productions

**What Can Peer Productions do for You?** Woking based unique youth arts training company Peer Productions have some exciting projects lined up for 2010-11

### The Teenage Pregnancy Project

Touring for its fourth consecutive year, Peer Productions' most successful production is available for schools, colleges and youth groups to book from 3rd November 2010 to 8th April 2011. Aimed at ages 13+, this 90 minute piece addresses the reality of becoming a teenage parent, whilst also providing audiences with information and advice about relationships, contraception and where to go for support. The production was informed by the experiences of real teenage parents from



Surrey, and has been very well received by young people across the South East with a high rate of re-booking by schools.

### The Alcohol Project

This brand new production is available from 16th May to 15th July 2011. This 90 minute play explores the emotional, social, health and financial implications for young people who choose to use alcohol. Peer Productions are developing this piece with young people with direct experience of alcohol misuse, and it promises to be as funny, hard hitting and informative as previous productions. The play is aimed at ages 13+.



Created by young people, for young people, both The 'Teenage Pregnancy Project' and 'The Alcohol Project' are suitable for audiences of up to 200 per performance. Peer Productions tours across the South East and beyond. The plays come to you, in your own setting, and the space required can be flexible. The young actor-educators (aged 16 to 24) will engage your young people and help them to make informed life choices.

### Youth Theatre

Peer Productions runs a large inclusive youth theatre, which meets on a Sunday at Woking Youth Arts Centre. The group is currently open to new members, and welcomes young people of all abilities. We are also setting up a group specifically for young learning disabled actors. "The main youth theatre remains an inclusive group where all are welcome, but we also wanted to provide a smaller group environment for young learning disabled actors to work at their own pace," said Artistic Director Nina Lemon who will be leading the group.

### Outreach

Peer Productions are experienced in running drama and film outreach projects with a wide variety of targeted groups, particularly those hardest to reach.

**Peer Productions** are a community interest company (CIC) and social enterprise. For prices and more information about any of the projects above, or if you have an idea you would like to discuss further, please contact our General Manager Claire Tristram on 01483 476825 or email [claire@peerproductions.co.uk](mailto:claire@peerproductions.co.uk)



## The Sovereign Centre – An Inclusive Centre for Children and Young People

These are exciting times for the Reigate and Redhill YMCA as long-awaited building and refurbishment work started in September on the Sovereign Centre Disability Hub.

There is a real need for a dedicated centre for disabled young people in the East of the county. The YMCA's unique approach will provide specialised facilities for disabled young people



Ian Burks, left, seals the deal with David Spurrell

within a thriving inclusive environment, offering the high levels of support some children may need, along with encouragement to integrate into other mainstream sports and leisure opportunities at the centre.

The YMCA will be working closely with the Youth Development Service and local young people to sustain a thriving youth programme which was started over 40 years ago by David Spurrell (the former Director of the Sovereign). The new centre will also provide a venue for the YMCA's free counselling service and continue to house gymnastics, judo, circuit training and badminton, as well as being available for hire as a venue for other clubs and birthday parties.

Chief executive, Ian Burks, said this week,

"Thanks to David, the centre has been a fantastic resource for the community but unfortunately the building is now tired and at the end of its useful life. We want to create a new high quality, accessible Sovereign Centre which disabled and non-disabled people can enjoy together for many years to come."

Once the work has been completed, the Sovereign Centre, located on Slipshatch Road in Reigate, will house a sensory room, soft play room, two multi-use activity rooms, a consultation room and adapted outside playground. The building will be fully accessible. Sensory and soft play equipment will be permanent fixtures and the inflatables and trampoline will be set up in the sports hall during holiday schemes.

Programmes offered from the new centre will include YIPPEE Holiday Playschemes and Saturday Club for children with complex needs and Yip4Youth – a similar scheme for young people between 13 and 16, which will develop independence by providing day trips and activities in the local community.

Other projects based at the refurbished Sovereign Centre will include V Buddies, the YMCA's recently developed volunteer buddy scheme which aims to offer support to young people with disabilities, and Face2Face, a befriending scheme for parents of children who have been recently diagnosed with a disability.

In addition to funding from Surrey County Council's Aiming High programme, the project will also benefit from money raised through the YMCA's 2010 Challenge events. Undertaken by local YMCA supporters, the Challenges this year have so far raised more than £51,000 and have included the annual Fun Run held in Reigate's

Priory Park, an 800 mile sponsored bicycle ride from Redhill to the Rock of Gibraltar and 3 days of climbing 15 peaks over 3000ft in Snowdonia National Park.

"We still need to raise more funds to ensure that this project becomes a reality," says Ian

Burks "and so that the Sovereign Centre and its facilities can be enjoyed by many disabled children and young people well into the future."

Work should be finished on the new Children's and Young People Centre by May 2011.



Everybody seemed to be going to a festival this summer –SYC couldn't be left out could it? So, in June, we jumped on the band wagon. The Young Carers festival is held every year in Hampshire and over 2000 amazing young people get together with their peers (plus a few adults to help put the tents up!), to get away from their responsibilities back home.

The comments of one young carer sum it up 'It's the only time I get to really be away from worries. I do worry about my sister when I'm there but I know that this time is for me. Thank you so much for everything'

We followed this up with a massive Funday for young carers from all over Surrey. 169 young carers and 16 staff invaded (sorry –went to!!) Paulton's Park in Hampshire. The group aged between 8 and 17 braved rain and wind to try out the rides- 'The Edge, The Cobra and Jumping Bean' to name a few for the more daring among us!! There were also gentler rides for those that preferred them (and staff that didn't want to have a heart attack!), as well as animated shows, play areas and exotic animals.



Arun H said 'I had a fantastic day out. I loved going on the rides and it was brilliant that we didn't need to queue up for most of them!'

These trips are organised to give young people a break from their roles caring for relatives who have physical disabilities, mental health conditions, or have drug or alcohol dependency.

## Not Just fun and Games

Back in Sept. 2009, Surrey Young Carers invited professionals from Health, Social Care, Education and Youth Services to an Interagency conference at Dorking Halls. Our aim was to update the current young carer strategy that had come to the end of its three year cycle and to make sure young carers become everyone's responsibility in the coming years.

As an outcome from the conference a Focus group has been set up with representation from each of the sectors. We are also very fortunate to have young carers feeding in their views and suggestions for Surrey strategy. The Strategy has now been finalised and is available to see from our web site along with loads of other useful info for young people and professionals.

[www.surreyyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.surreyyoungcarers.org.uk)



## Walton Firs update

You will have seen Gareth Malone on television taking boys out of the classroom to learn their lessons in the great outdoors. I applaud this move but would point out that at Walton Firs we have been offering the facilities to test your mathematics calculating the height of our climbing tower, testing your descriptive skills for English comprehension by observing our wildlife, flowers and fauna,

and how much light is it that travels through our caving experience? Our new deputy warden, John Young will be liaising with schools and other educational establishments to offer them the opportunity of using our facilities to bring their learning to the outdoors. If you would like to come to our Open Morning for leaders and teachers on 9th April 2011 please contact [john@waltonfirs.co.uk](mailto:john@waltonfirs.co.uk).

Thanks to a donation of climbing wall panels from Surrey University, our own, well used climbing wall has been upgraded and refurbished with a more authentic textured surface to make it more realistic and far more challenging. If you have already met the challenge of climbing at Walton Firs, then it's time to book in for the new look wall with more excitement and variety. The minimum age is still 7 years and groups of up to 12 can be instructed. See our website [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk) for prices.



How often do you hear the words 'On Time and On Budget'? We shouted out that wonderful expression as the last rocks were set in place round our caving complex. It opened in time for the Girl Guides to use as part of their Centenary Camp and has been in regular use since. Discover art, fossils and your sense of adventure as you squeeze through its chambers. If your young people are aged 6 years and upwards we can provide an instructor for groups of up to 16 for an hour of caving. See our website [www.waltonfirs.co.uk](http://www.waltonfirs.co.uk) for prices and photo gallery. Recent troglodytes heard strange growling noises and were glad of their wind up helmet lamps and protective knee pads to make a speedy egress!

For additional growling, information and bookings, contact our Wardens Dave & Sue McIntosh at [warden@waltonfirs.co.uk](mailto:warden@waltonfirs.co.uk)



# High Sheriff Youth Awards

Helping young people make Surrey safer

## HSYA increases 2010-2011 grants budget

*The current High Sheriff of Surrey, Rob Douglas, CBE writes:*

Five months into my High Sheriff year and the applications for financial support from the High Sheriff Youth Awards (HSYA) continue to come in. As at 31st July we had paid out £13,990 to 15 organisations and there are a further six applications in the pipeline. The projects cover a wide range of activities across the county and are making a real difference to young people's lives – we estimate that the 15 approved projects have reached over 2,000 young people.

## Transitional support for relevant youth projects

In the last edition of Surrey Youth News I referred to the concern about the impact that public sector funding cuts might have on our organisations and charities. This is now turning into a serious issue. Although the HSYA is not a large charity, our own funding has held up well this year and we do want to help organisations that might be struggling. The HSYA Trustees have increased the overall grants budget for this year to £60,000. In certain cases, we will look at grants up to £5,000 for charities and organisations whose activities cover the whole county, or up to £2,000 for more local bodies whose activities meet our criteria (see below) and who are looking for transitional support this year as they develop a new business model to deal with the impact of public sector cuts.



*High Sheriff visits GASP's workshop in Gomshall*

## Check our criteria and then apply

We are, of course, maintaining our normal grants programme and just to remind you: if you are young people (or are working with groups of young people) who want to help reduce or prevent crime in Surrey – and that can be in a whole range of different ways – and you need funding to start up a new scheme or to expand an existing project, the High Sheriff Youth Awards scheme welcomes applications for funding from £50 up to £1000.

For more information, please go online to [www.surreyhighsheriff.org](http://www.surreyhighsheriff.org) – it's very easy to apply and we aim to assess every project against our criteria within weeks.

## Are you a part of a sports club in

**Runnymede**, Do you live in or attend a school in Runnymede? If you answer yes to either of these questions and are aged between 11 and 19 years then we would love you to join Runnymede Youth Sports Council.

With your help Runnymede Youth Sports Council hopes to offer the following:

- To express 'one voice for youth sport' on behalf of young people in Runnymede.
- To campaign on local sporting issues that young people care about.
- To promote and encourage activities and events that create sporting opportunities.
- To celebrate the achievements of young sports people in Runnymede.
- To promote the 'voice' of the Runnymede Youth Sports Council to the community.
- To support sporting initiatives whether they are local or national.
- To support and promote any local 2012 campaigns.
- To assist and support Sport Runnymede.

To find out more call 01932 425683 or visit [www.rbcyouth.co.uk](http://www.rbcyouth.co.uk)



## Impressive Medal Haul in 2010 for Wey Kayak Club

Wey Kayak Club has produced an impressive medal haul at international sprint Regattas throughout the 2010 season.

Back in June at a World Cup event in Duisburg, Germany Rachel Cawthorn won medals in each event she entered: Gold in the K1 1000m, Gold K1 500m and Bronze K1 200m. Particularly impressive was the 500m race where she beat the reigning Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze medal winners!

Liam Heath (with his K2 partner Jonnie Schofield), consolidated their world dominance in the Men's K2 200m race by taking the Gold Medal, building on the Gold they won the previous weekend in Hungary.

Heath and Ed Cox (with team mates Ed McKeever and Schofield) also won silver in the "A" final of the exciting 200m canoe relay race.

June saw the European Sprint Championships in Spain. Rachel Cawthorn overcame one of the sport's legends to win the women's K1 1000m while her Wey Kayak Club team-mate Liam Heath was victorious in the men's K2 at Trasona. Meanwhile, Heath's remarkable debut year in senior racing continued as he added Euro gold to a pair of World Cup wins with K2 partner Jon Schofield.

Finally, the climax of the International Sprint Canoe competition was the World Championships held in Poznan,



Poland. GB won a record 6 medals overall, three of which were due to paddlers from Guildford's Wey Kayak Club. Liam Heath and Ed Cox won Silver in the 200m relay race. Bronze medals were won by Liam (with K2 partner Schofield) in the K2 200m race and Rachel Cawthorn in the K1 500m event. Rachel's achievement is of note as it is the first medal won by a British Woman at a Sprint World Championships!



With over 30 years of triumphs and victories, Wey Kayak Club has a rich tradition for racing and is one of the leading clubs in Great Britain, proud to also have a recent Junior World Marathon Champion among our members. We also run introductory courses in the Spring and Summer to teach newcomers from the age of 8 up the basics of canoe / kayaking.

[www.weykayak.co.uk](http://www.weykayak.co.uk)

Richard Cawthorn Wey Kayak Club Websmaster - [richard@cawthorns.demon.co.uk](mailto:richard@cawthorns.demon.co.uk)



Sport relies on 1.5 million volunteer officials, coaches, administrators and managers. National Governing Bodies, along with County Sports Partnerships such as Active Surrey work hard to support this, through schemes such as Step into Sport.

The purpose of Step into Sport is to increase the quantity, quality and diversity of young people engaged in volunteering and leadership. It is a tool which enables schools and community settings to grow young people as leaders, and deploy them as active volunteers both within the school and community settings.

The scheme is open to 14-19 year olds, who log volunteering hours to gain points that can lead to rewards. These rewards include leisure vouchers, tickets to sporting events, sports workshops and can even lead to a nomination for 'Young Volunteer of the Year' at the prestigious Surrey Sports Awards. Not only will these young people benefit from increased employability, meeting new people and gaining skills that will support them in the workplace, but the community too will benefit from a generation of young volunteers who work together to bring sports and activity to everyone.

To get involved, simply sign up for the free Welcome Pack at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/surreysis](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/surreysis)

Have volunteering opportunities in your organisation? Let us know at:  
[www.activesurrey.com](http://www.activesurrey.com)



# **wvyp Shipwrecked**

Having heard the complaint from young people that there was nowhere locally for young bands to play, and that it was difficult to get going with a band; Stefan Nahajski and Mig Sleeper from Windle Valley Youth Project (WVYP) organised a one day Rock School in the summer of 2009 as a “toe in the water”. The day went well and the young people involved wanted to do more. After the summer holidays WVYP arranged a series of evenings and supported the young people in learning and then performing new songs.

The need for a venue was still there so the group started a project to set up their own youth music venue. Having done some groundwork, the young people successfully applied for funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund to help buy equipment and pay for publicity. One of the local pubs, the Three Mariners in Bagshot, has a reputation for live music and the landlady kindly offered her back bar and function room to the project as a venue. Finally after a couple of months of frantic planning, choosing equipment, choosing a name, setting up a Facebook page, booking bands and doing publicity, Shipwrecked launched at the end of March. The first night



was a huge success with a near capacity crowd, a range of performers and good feedback from the audience – a fantastic result for the young people who set up the night - Harry (project leader), Maddi and Katie.

This summer WVYP put on another one day Rock School with the help of Brit School tutor and singer Jenny Howe, and local drummer Chris Hemsall, and are looking forward to planning this year’s programme with the project team.

[www.wvyp.org.uk](http://www.wvyp.org.uk)



## Online TV Channel - calling all reporters

Surrey County Council is running a new initiative to add an online TV Channel to their website. The channel is an opportunity to highlight the positive achievements of young people in the county and is currently looking for people who would like to be reporters. The channel will also feature on the Surrey Youth Focus website. Anyone interested in this opportunity to be a reporter or who has a story to tell should contact: [kelly@websedge.com](mailto:kelly@websedge.com)



## WOKING SEA RANGERS, SRS WAKEFUL - SUMMER OF FUN AND CELEBRATION

This year the Sea Ranger Association is celebrating their 90th anniversary. Woking Sea Rangers (not quite this old, but was formed in 1942, and named after HMS Wakeful who was sunk at Dunkirk.) have been having a very busy summer celebrating and having lots of fun on the waterways.

To mark our Associations' celebrations we have been very busy with Sailing weekends and our Celebration National regatta and activities weekend in Birmingham. Boat festivals both with the National Trust at Guildford in July and on the August Bank holiday, the IWA Reading boat festival at Beale Park, allowed us to show what we can do. At the Beale Park festival, which had over 600 visiting narrowboats attending, we were featured with our Narrowboat “Pilot” with the historic boats on the main arena lake. Our Narrowboat was one of the early purpose built narrowboats designed to take young people out on the waterways of the UK.



We also helped to row the newly restored Shallop, which was used in the film ‘A Man for all seasons’. This was the style of rowing boat originally used for King Henry the VIII.

Woking Sea Rangers have also been busy with their Silver Duke of Edinburgh rowing expeditions, and during the Summer holidays we

once again hosted two boating days for the Chenoble Life Line group, where the Russian children enjoyed some rowing and kayaking on the River Wey.

Julie Johnson  
Woking Sea Rangers  
[julie4.johnson@btinternet.com](mailto:julie4.johnson@btinternet.com)

**twitter™**

400 followers can't be wrong! Follow Surrey Youth Focus on Twitter.

Visit <http://twitter.com/SurreyYF> to follow us

## Speak out be heard project – raising awareness of youth homelessness

Guildford YMCA & eagle radio have won a joint bid for funding from Mediabox to enable young people to share their experiences of homelessness.

This project will enable young people to use Eagle Radio studios to set up a website, record their experiences & share them with a public audience across Surrey.

This includes funding available to help with transport, food and trips out.

The young people involved will primarily come from the hostels at the YMCA, Step by Step in Aldershot & Mulberry House Guildford. Initially they will spend time in Eagle Radio studios learning how to use the equipment, then be set free to talk with young people, hostel staff, housing staff at the councils, members of the public etc. The aim is to get the website ready by the end of December when Eagle Radio will host the site free for at least 12 months thereafter.

The YMCA has allocated a youth worker from the Plantation youth venue to support the young people, while Eagle Radio has 2 technical staff teaching the skills and hundreds of hours of studio time allocated to the project.



For further information contact Inglis Wightman on IWightman@guildfordymca.org.uk 07887 875852

## Young people celebrate their success on Prince's Trust Team

Family, friends and supporters gathered at Guildford YMCA on Thursday 22 July to watch a presentation by young people about the 12 week course they have just completed. Each young person told of how the Prince's Trust Team course has impacted their lives and is helping to shape their futures.

The new High Sheriff of Surrey, Robert Douglas CBE, presented the Team with their certificates. He told them, "The theme of my year as High Sheriff is supporting and helping 14 – 25 year olds, especially those who have particular difficulties to overcome. I am so impressed by what you have achieved, and impressed by the confidence you've shown this evening. You are an outstanding testament to the Prince's Trust Team course and how it changes people's lives. I applaud your achievements."

Prince's Trust Teams offer experiences to young people aged 16-25 – ranging from physical challenges out on Dartmoor to organising a day out for pensioners. Practical training in Food Hygiene and First Aid offers the opportunity to gain further qualifications alongside the City & Guilds award in Personal Development and Contributing to the Community. CV development and interview techniques help prepare young people for job hunting.

Unlike previous Teams the work experience element was extended from one to two weeks. And two of the Team have been offered full time work by their placement employers. For young people who started the course with low expectations and poor prospects, this is the perfect result.

One young man told of how he was encouraged to sign up for the course to sort himself out. "After getting into trouble with the police last year, I thought it was about time I did something with my life. The Youth Justice team hooked me up with my own personal Connexions adviser who applied to the Prince's Trust for me.



"I really enjoyed my time on work experience and my time on the course. I've made some really kind friends. I am looking forward to get my certificates."

For any young person aged 16-24 looking for direction or to improve their life and work skills, new courses will begin on Monday 20 September in both Guildford and Reigate. Please call Art or Alex on 01483 888122 for more information.

## Youth Development Service in Tandridge



In Tandridge the Youth Workers support the Voluntary Youth clubs as much as possible. We have a Leader in Charge in Outwood, continue to offer support to the CR3 Soldiers, and have been involved with the setting up of a club in Bletchingley. Lingfield is in the process of starting up a club and we have offered advice and linked into Surrey Youth Focus to offer on-going Support.

CR3 Soldiers attended a 1 day Police Event looking at Community Responses to Anti Social Behaviour and the young people won 1st Prize for their presentation. They were presented with a cheque for £500 by the Police for their 1 night a week club that they run in Caterham.



Jane Wilson jane.wilson@surreycc.gov.uk

Throughout the recent summer holidays Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council teamed up to offer young people in Woking an activity programme to remember.

“Xtreme Fun” offered something for local teenagers every day from 26th July to 31st August, including traditional activities like football and basketball sessions to activities that are maybe not so well known, like capoeira and parkour.



Alternatively, for those that like their activities a little less adrenaline charged, Woking Youth Arts Centre hosted both a three day pop “video making course” in partnership with “Matech” and a one week “pop academy”. The latter saw young people working with a professional singing tutor, choreographer and studio engineer. Some of the groups worked on cover songs whilst the others composed songs themselves. The entire group made huge achievements over the course of the week, which culminated in an emotional performance.

With quotes from those that took part like, “Before I came



was very shy about performing but now I feel more confident and “ I have enjoyed this week very much and hope there will be another one”, it looks like “Xtreme Fun” may become a regular feature of the school holidays in Woking!

For more information on Surrey County Council youth provision in Woking please call:

- David Blake - Youth Development Officer - 01483 518103
- Faye Stoneman - Schools Development Worker - 01483 727253
- Beckie Wain - Neighbourhood Youth Worker for West Woking - 01483 727253
- Lorraine Parker - Neighbourhood Youth Worker for East Woking - 01483 598301



### Woking youth work expands with over £460,000 Lottery funding

The Woking YMCA (WYMCA) is to roll out a new programme of support services for young people after securing a £463,815 grant from the Big Lottery Fund announced today. Sheerwater, Maybury, Goldsworth Park and Barnsbury areas of Woking will all benefit.

The grant comes from BIG’s Reaching Communities programme which aims to help those most in need and build stronger communities.

Following on from a successful pilot in the Barnsbury Estate, WYMCA will offer youth work across

the areas at least two evenings a week, and will provide a safe and supportive environment for young people who are mostly aged between 14 and 19.

The structured programme will give young people access to guidance, counselling and mentoring which will also help those who are not in employment, education or training.

Activities will include sports and fitness, drama, arts, music, dance and job search techniques, with signposting onto volunteering, training, further education and employment.

Terry Eckersley, CEO Woking YMCA said, “This funding will not only enable Woking YMCA to become an integral part, but also to reach out into the wider community in a far more cohesive way. It will strengthen us and the local community, launching us into exciting and developing times. Our work, being supported by the Big Lottery Fund, will enable us to reach around 750 young people annually.”

Alison Rowe, Big Lottery Fund’s Head of Region, said: “WYMCA’s pilot project in the Barnsbury Estate proved very popular and was successful in tackling the boredom that young people in the area face. With this grant they will be able to meet the needs of many young people who may be up against barriers such as family problems, homelessness or behavioural issues, and help them look to a more positive future.”



Terry Eckersley - CEO Woking YMCA

### Parkour pulls crowds in Farnham

40 Degreez summer Parkour workshops led by James Stokes of 3Run were a great success!. The young people who had been attending for 12 weeks had an opportunity to demonstrate their new skills around Farnham town. They drew crowds of onlookers as they leapt from rooftops and shinned up lamp posts before leaping from the top of a brick wall. They have all learnt how to fall correctly and none of the young people were injured. The club has proved to be a real favourite with the young people.

Others who would like to have a go take note that the club began again on September 10th and is still open to newcomers. Give Emma, the 40 Degreez youth leader on 07531244113 and get the low down on how to get involved.





**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Thanks to all our contributors this issue

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**Next Copy Deadline**  
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