



VOLUNTEERS

SKILLWAY

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

MOTIVATE
via dedicated, professional, trade experienced tutors

CREATE
in professional, well equipped workshops and studio

DEVELOP
by building confidence, self-esteem and life skills

SUCCEED
in gaining employment and further training opportunities

LEADING TO practical skills for life

A CRAFT SKILLS TRAINING UNIT

promoting manual and life skills to aid employability.

For more information or to arrange a visit

Please call

01483 414081

or visit our website

www.skillway.net

Skillway

The Old Chapels

Deanery Road

Godalming GU7 2PG

SKILLWAY

Registered Charity Number 277631

(Part of the Warehouse Christian Trust)

Established 1998

Students are usually referred to Skillway by their schools, but we also have some learners who are Home Educated, for a wide variety of reasons. Some students come for one term, some for a year, and some stay with us for two or more years.

In general learners will attend for one day per week in term time, replacing a day at their school or special unit.

Most will learn woodworking skills for half of the day, and metalworking skills for the other half. Some will solely work in the Creative Arts studio, and others will have an individualised scheme developed for their personal needs.

All will have been interviewed before starting at Skillway as the best outcomes are achieved by assessing the learner's own particular needs and whether they have a spark of interest in craft skills. Skillway is not a punishment centre; it is a place for learning manual crafts and learning how to develop those essential personal skills that will lead to further training and employability.

Past students have gone on to rewarding work placements and some have even started their own successful businesses. We do have some who do not use the opportunities wisely, and occasionally we do part company – but not without a great effort on our part.

To do all this, we rely heavily upon a team of superb Volunteers, from a wide range of backgrounds. Many have had a working life in a manual skills environment. Some will have had a keen interest in a craft skill as a hobby. Some others will have an educational background, perhaps working with “challenged” youngsters. Most, but certainly not all, of our Volunteers are retired and enjoy giving Skillway one day a week in term time, to pass on their passion and skills to the younger generation. It may be that you have no technical skills but do have an interest in supporting and mentoring young people – and that is also most welcome.

It can be a very challenging experience – in winter, it is not all that warm in our workshops. Some of our youngsters do not seem to appreciate what is being done for them and what opportunities they are being offered. Some can be just downright truculent. But when you see that “light bulb moment” and can take heart in seeing what talents the youngsters are learning, it is all worthwhile. You need patience, endurance and a good sense of humour, but the rest of the team and the staff tutors are supportive and great to work with.

We are a small Charity and cannot offer a salary, but are happy to discuss travelling costs. We also try to be flexible and if you go on holiday in term time – as long as we know in advance - we will work around that. The reward for you is knowing that you have helped at least one young person onto a road leading to employability, a happier life, and better integration into the community; a life of “Can Do” rather than “What’s the point?”, and the potential social stigmas that come with it.

What to do next?

Please get in touch with the General Manager, Greg Bleach, at the workshops. Ideally we would like to arrange a visit so that you can see the workshops in action and talk through any options.

Otherwise, please send an email or letter to:

Mrs Vivien Gillman
Skillway
The Old Chapels,
Deanery Road
Godalming GU7 2PG
office@skillway.net

stating your craft or education (if applicable) background and skills interests plus some guide to your availability.

We look forward to welcoming you - and adding you to our little galaxy of stars.