

# SKILLWAY

## WINTER 2017



### We are 20!

This academic year marks the anniversary of Skillway being in operation for 20 years. We are in a very different position to where we were all those years ago and during that time we have been able to give many young people access to skills and trades that they would have been unable to get in schools. We are fortunate that some of our volunteers have been with us from the beginning or for a large part of this time. We are also very grateful to our new volunteers who we hope will be with us for the next 20!



### What's been happening?

We have had an excellent start to the new academic year, with an increase in our numbers week on week.

We have now signed up to AQA and have several courses up and running already. We are also working on developing new courses which will allow our students to leave with additional skills.

Whilst some of the modules are at a basic entry level, others will be at a higher level and this will hopefully encourage the students to work hard in order to gain the higher awards.

This is a great thing to be able to offer the schools as it gives them evidence to provide to their stakeholders who are responsible for providing the funding. It also gives the student a real sense of achievement as they are able to see success in a relatively short space of time. Modules are available in all areas allowing all students to benefit.

We have also had students this term from The Petersfield School. We were able to fill a gap for them after they were let down by another provider. We are hopeful that after a positive time with Skillway that they will decide to use us regularly in the future.



Liam was our Student of the Year for 2017. He received his award at our Open Day in the summer.

## Staff Training

We have been very fortunate to have Nicky Herbert come on board to help us. Nicky has a background in working with children with Special Needs. She has already run one training session for us and we are hoping that she will do more in the future. Her knowledge enables us to keep up to date with strategies and frameworks to provide our students with the best possible experience.



## Dan Eley Foundation

Carolyn Eley came to collect a display cabinet made by Skillway for the Olympic torch which Dan carried through Godalming in 2012. Dan was delighted with it.



If you would like to join the team, or know someone who may like to volunteer for us we would be delighted to hear from you.

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Alternatively, you may like to consider sponsoring one of our students or would consider making a donation to us. We do not receive any Government funding and are completely reliant on the generosity of individuals and small businesses. Without your support we would not be able to offer our students the opportunity to try a number of different skills.

“Thanks so much to our local partner charity Skillway, to Greg and Vivien Gilman & the workshop staff/students for this amazing gift, a mirror-backed cabinet for my Olympic torch, it looks stunning! “

## Ex –Students News

We have heard from 2 ex-students this term.

Jordan has set up on his own doing tree surgery and landscape gardening. He is doing really well and his Mum credits Skillway with giving him his work ethic which has enabled him to make his business a success.

Ben has secured a job in the motor industry and is part of a British Superbike Racing Team. He came up to visit us and is clearly very grateful for the help and support he got from Skillway.