

# SKILLWAY

## Summer 2019



### What's been happening?

Skillway has had an excellent start to the year. We have increased the number of schools involved with us as despite the pressure on their budgets the schools recognize that what we have to offer is vital for some of their pupils. We have also welcomed a number of new Home Educated students who may face similar difficulties to those in schools, but also who do not have access to the practical skills that we can offer training in.

A number of our students are finishing with us this term. Some have only been with us a short while whilst others have stayed the course and have been with us for 2 years or more. It doesn't matter how long or short a time they are here the skills that they learn stand them in really good stead for facing the outside world and for becoming part of the working world.

One of our volunteers commented :

*'We nearly always view it that we as volunteers are here to help the youngsters. How often do we take the time the think about how it benefits us?*

*My involvement has helped me to understand people better, to be more sympathetic to all, more tolerant, etc.'*

As well as volunteering in the workshops **we are also looking for people to get involved in other ways. Some examples of the types of role involved are:**

- Helping to organize/attend functions which will promote Skillway eg quiz nights/fetes/ shows/craft fairs
- Helping to raise awareness of Skillway through articles in local magazines and newspapers, giving presentations to organisations that might be interested—eg WI, U3A
- Helping to monitor and update our website so that it provides an accurate reflection of what we are doing.
- You may also have other ideas—this list is not exhaustive—we are open to all suggestions as to how we can promote the work that we do.

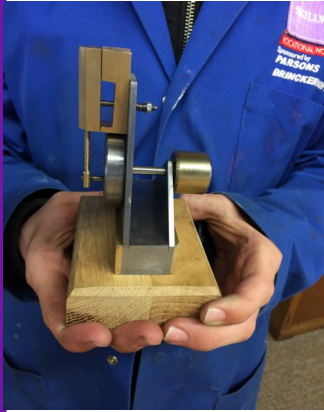
As we go in to the summer holidays our volunteers and staff will be finishing with a training day to ensure that we are up to speed with all the necessary frameworks for a new academic year in September.

Please visit our website [skillway.org.uk](http://skillway.org.uk) and watch our videos to see more of what we do.

### Upcoming events to support Skillway:-

Proms in the Park—Saturday 7th September 5 pm

Dan Eley Quiz— Saturday 12th October—Wilfrid Noyce Centre



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 ★ years with ★  
 ★ Brooklands we ★  
 ★ have now been ★  
 ★ awarded Agency ★  
 ★ Status. This ★  
 ★ means that we are ★  
 ★ now able to work ★  
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### New Mayor

Thank you to the new Mayor of Godalming, Penny Rivers for her help in providing our new website and also getting new laptops for our students to do their CAD work. Next year we will be trialling electronic portfolios for one of the Btec Units. Penny has also very kindly chosen us as one of her charities for her year of office. This support is very much appreciated and helps greatly get Skillway out into the public eye. We are sure that she will have a great year in office.

### Home Education

After several years of supporting just a couple of home educated students within our regular programme, it has recently been recognised that this is a community that we can help. The students still fit our criteria as they are young people who require extra support that is not available to them in the main stream school environment.

From September we have been able to offer an exclusive day for home educated students which will give them an opportunity to access practical skill based education. An added advantage for this particular cohort is that they will also have the chance to mix with other home educated students. This will help them to develop friendships and to learn to work alongside others.

**Celebrating our wonderful Vivien**

Vivien Gillman has been involved with Skillway for over 10 years. Earlier this year she stepped down as CEO due to a house move but we are delighted that she has simply changed title and is now one of our Trustees and is still very much involved with Skillway. We are also delighted that her dedication to Skillway, as part of the Christian Warehouse Trust and her other charity involvement has been rewarded with a Mayors Volunteer Award from the outgoing Mayor Nick Williams. This award goes a small way to recognise the many, many hours that Vivien puts in to helping others. We are so grateful to have Vivien on the Skillway team as her dedication and hard work ensure that we continue to go from strength to strength.

### Stewardship

We have now partnered with Stewardship [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk) as our new online giving tool. Once you have set up an account it is easy to support Skillway on a regular basis or to set up a link to any event that requires sponsorship.

That is exactly what Dominik Wilhelm has done for his concert that he is holding with his students.

'We are 24 young (or young at heart) drummers that work with The-DomDom. We have set ourselves the challenge to perform in The-DomDom's end of summer term concert at Dakota on the 23rd of July 2019. Consequently, we're working hard to push our playing to new heights :-). And as we develop, we'd like to help develop our local community too. That's why we are fund raising for Skillway.'

If you would like to sponsor them then please go to

<https://www.give.net/thedomdom/fundraising>

### AQA CERTIFICATES & BTEC QUALIFICATIONS

We have had another successful year. All of our students who have been with us for a minimum of a term have gained AQA certification and/or Btec qualifications. Over the last 2 years we have given out over 400 AQA certificates to our students recognising their achievements in their practical workshop projects. We continue to add new modules on a regular basis in order to help the students gain as many certificates as possible which in turn builds up a recognition of their skills.



BTEC—all the portfolios we submitted have been passed. Unfortunately 4 students were unable to complete their projects in time. 9 students have the full qualification and the 4 will still have attained one unit.

### How you can help us.

There are many ways in which you can support us.

The first and easiest way is to join Easyfundraising and select Skillway as your Charity of choice. That way when you shop online—as long as you click through Easyfundraising—you will be generating funds for us at no extra cost to yourself. It's amazing how quickly it mounts up. [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for Skillway.

If you are unable to volunteer you may like to sponsor one of our students. It costs £2,400 per year for a student to attend Skillway. We can provide you with regular information about the student that you sponsor so that you can see how they are benefitting from their time with us.

Alternatively you may like to make a one-off donation. This money can be used to purchase equipment and materials to use with the students to expand their skill set.

Finally, do you know a person, business or grant maker who might be looking for a charity to support? Skillway needs their help raising funds so that we can support the disengaged and disadvantaged young people in our local area.

**If you can help in anyway at all then please contact Greg Bleach—[workshop@skillway.net](mailto:workshop@skillway.net). 01483 414081**