

## Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership to Help Connexions in Identifying the Needs of 'Hard To Reach' Individuals through Networking Events



**Kevin Delf, Chief Executive of the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership and Jonathan Olafe, Chief Executive of Connexions Surrey met at the beginning of 2004 to consider how future Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership activities might contribute to and complement Connexions Surrey's work in engaging young people not in education, employment or training.**

Last month it was agreed that the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership would coordinate, organise and facilitate four events during the year in each of the Local Education Authority/Connexions Surrey's regions. Said Jonathan Olafe: **"I have chosen not to establish local management committees for this purpose within Surrey as the Learning Partnership had established ten Community Learning Partnerships supported by five Community Learning Advisers. I feel that the Partnership is therefore well placed to help Connexions in identifying the needs of 'hard to reach' individuals."**

The networking events will be organised by the Learning Partnership's Community Learning Advisers and would be for local networks of relevant professionals, including the Line Manager's of Connexions Personal Advisors and other intermediaries concerned with teenagers. The first of these events will take place in early June 2004. The Learning Partnership will facilitate the spreading of Connexions' 'key messages' locally and provide networking with organisations and professionals working with young people in particular areas.

Adds Kevin Delf: **"One of the key roles for the Community Learning Advisers is the engagement of the hard to reach in learning. They have all recently been involved in carrying out a major exercise in which 650 learners were interviewed. They are also independently involved in setting up and seeking funding for projects to pilot local solutions; for example the planning, set up and delivery of the Connexions' funded Bright Horizon's project in East Surrey and the Raising the Bar project in Runnymede. We look forward to working with Connexions Surrey on these events and hope they are successful in providing local intelligence on the 'hard to reach' learner."**

**For more information on the networking events contact Sian Sangarde-Brown on 07748 804078 or email [Sian.b@ntlworld.com](mailto:Sian.b@ntlworld.com).**

## Making Sense of the Mind!

A special interactive BBC event called Making Sense of the Mind took place at The Maybury Centre in Woking on Tuesday May 11th 2004. The event was arranged by Corner House Mental Health Resource Centre and Woking Community Learning Partnership.

Following the success of the pioneering BBC One series Human Senses and The Human Mind, the BBC approached local community organisations to present Making Sense of the Mind, an exploration of the intricacies of the human mind through experiments, demonstrations and discussion.

The BBC made contact with Sian Sangarde-Brown, Community Learning Advisor for Woking Community Learning Partnership, who worked with Paul Field

from CornerHouse Mental Health Resource Centre to organise the event.

Said Paul Field: "Fifty people came to the event to try out tests from The Human Senses and Human Mind television series, as well as try out a whole host of new ones. The tests were very interesting, all interactive and were enthusiastically received by the participants."

Said one participant: "I enjoyed all the tests, they really made me think! Who'd have thought our minds were that brilliant! I particularly liked the tests about if you can tell if someone is lying - very useful!"

Some of the tests can be tried out on the human mind website: [www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody](http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody). To find out more about CornerHouse visit: [www.cornerhousewoking.co.uk](http://www.cornerhousewoking.co.uk).



Participants get to grips with mind tests at the Making Sense of Your Mind event

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

### Mole Valley Travellers Learn the Art of Floristry

**Mole Valley and Elmbridge Community Learning Partnerships has supported a 3 hour bite-size floristry session organised by Hermione Delamare from Brooklands College for twelve ladies from the traveller community at Salvation Place. This is an example of the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership bringing together a number of CLPs and other agencies and organisations to address the specific needs of a community.**

The bite size session came about when Hermione met up with Sian Sangarde-Brown (Community Learning Advisor for Woking and Surrey Heath) at a meeting of the Travellers Education Forum sub-group. They knew that one lady from the travelling community at Salvation Place had been on a floristry course and that many others were interested in finding out more about it for themselves. Chris George, Community Learning Advisor for both Mole Valley and Elmbridge Community Learning Partnerships worked with Hermione who organised the session which took place just before Easter.

"We were delighted that so many people were interested in coming along to a bite size learning session," said Hermione, "everyone really enjoyed it and two ladies have since asked me to arrange for them to join a basic skills course. This is great as it is quite difficult to engage the travellers in learning, so them asking me is a real result!"

Hermione is now looking to devise a short course in floristry with embedded basic skills for the ladies, which could take them on to a formal floristry course leading to a qualification.



Ladies from Salvation Place with their finished bouquets

Chris George is the Community Learning Advisor for Mole Valley. "I would really like to do a lot more work with the travelling community in Mole Valley and will be looking for ways in which I can help Hermione get funding for these valuable projects." Says Chris. "It's so worthwhile when one bite-size chunk of learning can interest people

in gaining new skills. The ladies at Salvation Place would now like to sample a nail art course, which is great news!"

**For more information about this project contact Chris George on 01932 797769 or email cgeorge@briiklands.ac.uk**

### Bright Horizons

**The Bright Horizons project was managed by East Surrey Community Learning Partnership with support from East Surrey College and funded by Connexions Surrey. Its aims were:**

- To develop a DVD and booklet for Surrey schools that illustrates alternative opportunities and pathways to vocational work, so that young people can consider choices they have for the future. This will be shown during PSHE and Careers lessons.
- To allow young people currently working at Key Stage 3, but reluctant to continue learning, to consider their opportunities and goals and appreciate how an individual's attitude can improve their outcome.
- To allow young people to find out about ex-pupils, who have exceeded expectation and become a success in their chosen field. Each has taken a non-traditional route or had low aspirations or self esteem.

Four schools and two colleges took part in the project with 57 pupils in total taking part in the activities:

- Oakwood School
- Oxted School
- Warlingham School
- The Royal Alexandra and Albert School (Boarding School)
- RNIB College (Boarding College for 16-adult)
- East Surrey College of Art, Design and Media.

The first Bright Horizons event was held in September 2004 at East Surrey College where 10 themes were identified as traits of successful people. An inspirational speaker, Robin Sieger, was engaged to address the young people and encourage them to think about aspirations and step planning to achieve their goals. His talk also addressed the issue of attitude versus outcome.

During the second event, the pupils worked in teams alongside media students from East Surrey College to make films that were judged in a Film Award Ceremony at the end of the evening.

On-going work was done with the ex-pupils to contribute to films that told their stories. At a final event in March 2004 a 'Question Time' style event was held where the ex-pupils' film was shown. The young people formed the audience, and a panel answered questions on relevant issues about work and post 16 learning. The event was filmed by media students from East Surrey

College which contributed to their own vocational studies assessments.

The programme of activities has given confidence and enthusiasm to the young people involved, and opened their eyes to new opportunities. The young people wish to continue with film-making and funding is being sourced to ensure this. The progress of the young people will be followed to evaluate the success of the project.

**For more information on the Bright Horizons Project please contact Sian Sangarde-Brown on 07748 804078 or email Sian.b@ntlworld.com.**



Filming takes place at the Bright Horizons Final Event

## The Spelthorne Construction Bus

Spelthorne Community Learning Partnership together with Surrey Education Business Partnership and BAA, in association with others, is attempting to raise construction skills in the borough and bridge the skills gap with a mobile construction bus for use by the schools and students in Spelthorne Borough.

Based upon an idea developed by Look 2 Training Ltd, the classroom spends a minimum of half a day each week in many of the state maintained secondary schools in Spelthorne. Students are equipped with skills that lead to awards provided through the Surrey Regional Open College Network (SROCN). These include Health & Safety, Basic Construction and an Introduction to Brickwork.

Whilst schools contribute to the cost of the classroom and its specialist tutors, the initiative has been made financially possible thanks to the generous support of BAA Heathrow. Further financial support has been gained from Spelthorne Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Surrey Learning and Skills Council.

## The Construction Bus in Practice

**Warron Keates takes the Construction Bus to the secondary schools in Spelthorne Borough and teaches the students about different aspects of construction with the help of a teaching assistant from the school.**

*“A high proportion of our students have lost interest in main stream education,” says Warron, “but here (at the Construction bus) their achievements within this friendly environment have been amazing. You see a change in them from week to week. They go home with new skills that they have learnt - and this is very important to them as many of their parents are in skilled occupations.”*

Warron has a mentoring aspect to his role as well as teaching the students. His style is less authoritative and more encouraging. He helps his students to develop leadership skills by teaching them what to do and then putting one of them in charge (the foreman!) to practice a new skill. This has been working very well with his students at Thamesmead School in Shepperton. Quotes from a few of his students:

*“I've been doing this since September, it gets me out of other classes, but I actually learn something here!”*

*“I've learnt a lot here and I want to go on to a carpentry course at college.”*

*“I've been learning about electrical work and plumbing, when I leave school I want to join the army.”*

Brian Schofield, Teaching Assistant at Thamesmead School assists Warron on the Construction Bus. *“The lads have matured since coming to the Construction Bus in September 2003,”* said Brian, *“a lot of what*

*they have been learning here doesn't get taught in the classroom anymore. They are doing things that they might have to do on a real job, for example, installing piping under floorboards. They get the theoretical knowledge first and then they can put this in to practice as we set up the situation for them to work on.”*

Links with the Carillion Construction Centre at Heathrow which BAA also supports, helps to provide a post 16 progression route for some of the students involved with the Spelthorne Construction Bus.

The success of the Construction Bus could mean that it becomes the prototype for the extension of a mobile construction classroom service to other parts of Surrey.

**For more information on the Construction Bus contact Kate Shore on 01784 444222 or email [k.shore@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:k.shore@spelthorne.gov.uk)**



Students from Thamesmead School learn how to install pipes under floorboards at the Construction Bus

# NEWS

## Potential for New Learning Shops for Guildford and Woking Says Results of Retail Training Research by Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership

The findings from two research reports commissioned by the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership revealed that views on training and development in the retail trade is very negative with many interviewees complaining of lack of job variation and lack of respect shown to employees by managers.

“We conducted two pieces of research, one with retail employers and the other with young people

employed in retail,” says Kevin Delf, Chief Executive of the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership, “the results were quite alarming! Many employers admitted that their training did not always extend beyond the induction process and that NVQs were not very well understood at all. They were also undecided about the basic skills need for young employees.”

The young people interviewed said that although training in product knowledge was

valued, they wanted more training in dealing with difficult customers and with shoplifting. They also felt that there was little chance of progression from junior positions to management positions.

The research concluded that those employed in retail fall into three distinct categories: those who wish to pursue a career in retail, those who did not and those who were undecided.

### New 'Learning Shop'

Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership through its Community Learning Partnership in Guildford and Woking is working with Surrey Education Business Partnership, Skillsmart (Retail Sector Skills Council) and the Guildford and Woking Town Centre Managers to investigate the potential for a new 'Learning Shop'.

These learning shops could provide access to training organisations, information, advice and guidance on careers and gaining qualifications in retail and hospitality right in the centre of the high street!

“We hope that we will be able to pilot learning shops in Guildford and Woking and will get the support of local retail employers to help them to

retain staff and train them to a higher level,” adds Kevin Delf. “If learning shops are successful in both Guildford and Woking town centres we hope to roll it out to other shopping centres in Surrey.”

To download the Retail Sector Research Report visit [www.surreyllp.org.uk](http://www.surreyllp.org.uk).

## Upcoming Community Learning Partnership Meetings

If you have a story for  
Info@ send it to  
[info@surreyllp.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyllp.org.uk)  
or contact Amanda Dickens  
on: 020 8390 6661

### June 2004

**14th** Runnymede  
**16th** East Surrey  
**18th** Guildford

### July 2004

**7th** Banstead, Epsom & Ewell and Elmbridge  
**6th** Mole Valley and Surrey Heath  
**8th** Spelthorne

If you would like to attend your local CLP meeting please contact the local Community Learning Advisor:

**Mole Valley and Elmbridge CLPs**  
Contact Chris George - 01932 797769  
[cgeorge@brooklands.ac.uk](mailto:cgeorge@brooklands.ac.uk)

**Spelthorne and Runnymede CLPs**  
Contact Kate Shore - 01784 444222  
[k.shore@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:k.shore@spelthorne.gov.uk)

**Woking and Surrey Heath CLPs**  
Contact Siân Sargarde-Brown  
[Sian.b@ntlworld.com](mailto:Sian.b@ntlworld.com)  
Mob. 07748 804078

**Banstead Epsom & Ewell and East Surrey CLPs**  
Contact Siân Sargarde-Brown  
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**Guildford and Waverley CLPs**  
Contact Lucy Andrews - 07971 845205  
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