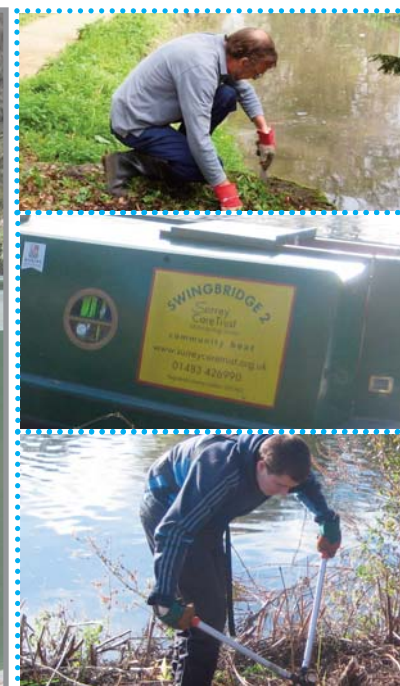


# Swingbridge News

2010

News from the Surrey Care Trust



## All aboard to learn new skills as **SWINGBRIDGE** expands its work

**Surrey**  
**Care Trust**  
**SWINGBRIDGE**  
benefits people and the  
environment

**T**raining or volunteering with the Surrey Care Trust's Swingbridge boats along local waterways, or coming on a training session, is a great way for people to learn skills and gain confidence and self-motivation.

They can work towards nationally recognised qualifications as well.

A major development for the Trust during 2010 will be the expansion of these opportunities for personal development as part of the Swingbridge programme.

More people than ever will benefit from Swingbridge training.

They include young people, especially those on the Surrey Care Trust's STEPS education programmes, people who are underskilled and poorly qualified,

those with mild learning difficulties and people recovering from ill health.

As well as the long-term volunteers on whose hard work Swingbridge relies, we are offering shorter training placements for unemployed people as a stepping stone back into work.

Crewing a boat is a new and challenging experience which enthuses people and engages their interest. The skills of concentration and the discipline of team-working are transferable to all kinds of jobs.

Swingbridge2 is the base for teams of people carrying out environmental conservation and clearance work all year round on Surrey waterways and in nearby parks, nature reserves and green spaces.

01483 426990

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

A registered charity, number 285543

Contact Swingbridge manager Margaret Reeder on 01252 622229 or 07973 282239, [margaret.reeder@surreycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:margaret.reeder@surreycaretrust.org.uk)

# For work and relaxation

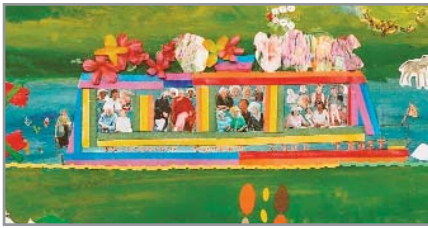
The Swingbridge 1 boat is running trips for community groups throughout the summer of 2010.

In the past we have invited people to make donations towards the cost of the trips, and have been very appreciative of much generosity. We have decided, however, after much discussion, to make a set charge of £60 for a two-hour trip, which we feel is fairer.

The money will continue to support the running of the Swingbridge programme and make it more sustainable for the future.

The boat is also available for hire for team-building and education activities by schools, youth groups, organisations and companies.

Call Chris Padmore on 01483 412763 to find out more.



The Conservatory Club of Leatherhead produced this colourful artwork after a trip on Swingbridge.

## SWIM OF A LIFETIME

Dr Alison Lievesley, daughter of Swingbridge volunteer Lew Lievesley, achieved a great personal ambition when she swam the English Channel last summer. She crossed in just over 13 hours (13 hours, 14 mins, 5 secs). Alison also kindly allowed us to invite sponsorship on her behalf, to raise funds for Swingbridge, resulting in a magnificent total of more than £800.



*The Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation  
herby certify that  
Alison Lievesley  
swam the English Channel  
England to France  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2009 in  
13 hours 14 mins 5 secs*

## Helpful, reliable and always very kind... our memories of Mike



Mike Watkins is pictured, third from right, with fellow volunteers. He will always be remembered for his helpfulness, his reliability and his kindness.



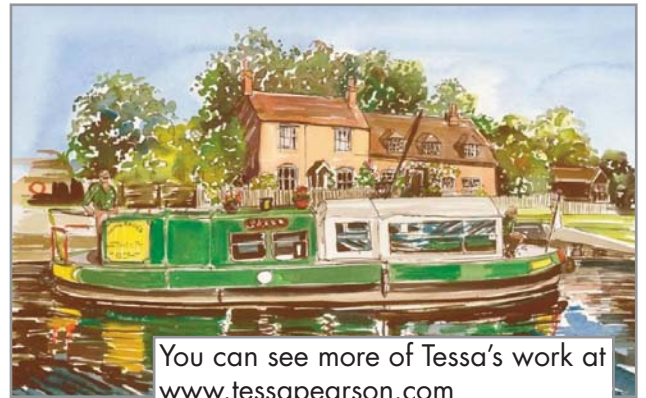
Mike, on the left, with Mr Robert Jewkes of Petrofac Engineering & Construction Ltd, Woking, a local company which has been a generous supporter of Swingbridge.



## We call her David Bailey!

A picture, taken by Swingbridge programme manager Margaret Reeder, of volunteer Lorraine Bryant, was the winning entry in a photography competition on the theme of volunteering organised by WAVS – the Woking Association of Voluntary Service. The picture, shown above, was taken during work to restore the St John's flight of locks in Woking.

## Swingbridge on canvas



You can see more of Tessa's work at [www.tessapearson.com](http://www.tessapearson.com)

Artist Tessa Pearson has donated a watercolour of our Swingbridge Community Boat. The original has been auctioned to raise funds; we also have postcards and can order prints. Call Chris Padmore on 01483 412763 to find out more.

Swingbridge volunteer, Mike Watkins, sadly died in November.

Mike joined us in May 2008 and soon proved to be a very valuable member of our crews on both the trips and the work boat.

He was always helpful, reliable and very kind.

Mike achieved his Complete Crew Certificate, First Aid Certificate and an OCN certificate for Maintenance of Locks and we were all very proud of his achievements.

He will be greatly missed by us all.

# GIVING BACK

## Swingbridge gives offenders a positive way to pay their dues

Our partnership with the Surrey Probation Area (now merged into the new Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust), provides placements on Swingbridge2 for offenders sentenced to Community Payback hours.

The environmental work they do, in all weathers, takes stamina but it is a constructive way for offenders to serve their sentence.

Offenders see the difference they are making to well-used public open spaces and they can use the time to gain accredited certificates in their newly-acquired skills.

Swingbridge2 was built with donations from Thames Heritage Trust, Thames Water and Woking Borough Council.



Our groups of offenders have done an enormous amount of work in 2009 – painting lock gates, balance beams, bollards and footbridges on the River Wey between New Haw and Guildford, working with the Wey Navigation.

Whilst in Guildford in the summer of 2009, the teams also worked with Guildford Borough Council erecting a fence, cutting out Himalayan Balsam and clearing willow saplings from the wetland area near Stoke Lock.

They restored the river banks using the traditional craft of spilling, weaving supports out of strips of hazel.

## Andy's in his element outdoors



Andy Loble joined us in 2009 as our Environmental Trainer. Andy loves the outdoor life. He is a keen skier and a competitive hill runner, recently running for Swingbridge in the Portland Coastal Challenge half-marathon.

Andy's keen interest in rivers and lakes - and fishing - brings a new perspective to our environmental work. Thanks to his knowledge, we are actively considering introducing a training unit in angling, further extending the opportunities for learning skills with Swingbridge.

## New volunteers always welcome

Swingbridge relies on a large band of volunteers. Without their support for our small team of part-time staff, we couldn't run the Swingbridge boats. For some, volunteering is a route to learning new skills, for others it is a rewarding and enjoyable way to do something worthwhile for the community. If you would like to join our volunteers on either of our boats – please email Margaret Reeder, the Programme Manager, [margaret.reeder@surreycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:margaret.reeder@surreycaretrust.org.uk), or phone 07973 282239, to find out more about the opportunities.



# STARTING YOUNG

Pictured right, helping to clear invasive undergrowth from the banks of the River Thames, is Lee Hope, who was on our STEPS Ahead programme for the young unemployed.

He and other young people helped with conservation work for the Swingbridge Thames Project, on the river near Hampton Court Palace.

The Swingbridge2 boat has been working with the Thames Landscape Strategy and Hampton Court Palace to improve the riverbank alongside the palace walls. For the STEPS Ahead group, the five days they spent with Swingbridge were a chance to learn new skills.

One of the tasks for the Swingbridge working parties has been to remove sycamore saplings from along this historic stretch of river. If the trees grow unchecked they will damage the banks.

The Swingbridge teams have also cut back willows, brambles and hops to open up the vista across the river. This encourages new growth of grass and riverweeds as a lush habitat for birds, insects and other small creatures.

They also worked with the Environment Agency on clearance work of banksides and towpaths, and painting at Teddington Lock.

Young people from several of the Surrey Care Trust's STEPS programmes have enjoyed days on the Swingbridge boats.

They have learnt how to drive the boats, about the working of locks and about wildlife and the river's environment.

A number have achieved Open College Network certificates on bankside restoration and painting lock gates.



## Cargill cares about SWINGBRIDGE

Cargill, an international producer and marketer of food, agriculture, financial and industrial products and services, with its UK office in Surrey, has made two generous donations to support the environmental work we do as part of our Swingbridge programme.

Jan Winteridge is chair of the Cargill Cares Council, formed from a team of employees, which supports many local community organisations and initiatives.

Jan explained that environmental stewardship is one of the three key areas where the business focuses its support, so the work of our Swingbridge2 community boat clearly fitted in with Cargill's corporate responsibility priorities.

People who work with the Swingbridge2 environmental training and work boat not only benefit personally but also make a valuable contribution to their local community, to wildlife and the

natural beauty of Surrey.

"It was clear that the work carried out on our waterways by the Swingbridge2 boat was a natural fit for Cargill Cares to support. We donated £5,000 in support of the boat and were fortunate to be able to secure additional funding of £2,500 through Cargill's Water Matters Mini Grant programme," said Jan.

"We are looking forward to developing our relationship with the Surrey Care Trust further over the coming months. Swingbridge is a great example of the community working together to make our waterways and towpaths a better place and at the same time, protecting and enhancing its natural habitat for wildlife."



## The CO-OP... good with community

We were delighted to receive a grant towards the running and maintenance costs of Swingbridge1

The **co-operative membership**   
Community Fund

from the Co-operative membership Community Fund. This scheme is funded by generous Co-operative members donating some or all of their share of profits.

Swingbridge works in partnership with The National Trust.