



**INVALUABLE WORK:** GASP CEO Andy Finch, May Gurney general manager Jim Harker, former Surrey County Council chairman David Munro and Bob Brown of Bob Brown Construction

**NEW PATRONS:** Judge Christopher Critchlow, Jim McAllister and entrepreneur Shahid Azeem

# Inspiring youth scheme marks its tenth birthday

## Charity offering mechanics training sessions shares success stories

By **Jennifer Hardwick**

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A PROJECT which works with schools to offer alternative learning to some of the most vulnerable children in Surrey has celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The GASP (Gomshall, Albury, Sflere and Peaslake) Motor Project launched in 2005 as a tiny evening youth scheme run by church workers with the support of Surrey Police.

Now the charity runs daytime and evening programmes at its purpose-built workshop at Albury Sandpit and has a mobile unit that works with schools across the county to inspire young people often deemed "at risk" and on the margins of the education system.

A celebratory evening to mark the milestone was held on April 23, hosted by former Surrey County Council chairman David

Munro at Clandon Park, six days before the mansion was sadly gutted by fire.

Guests saw the first screening of a film telling the story of GASP through the words of its students, with Mr Munro telling the assembled crowd: "It is one of the main charities which Surrey County Council is proud to support.

### Disaffected

"We are here to celebrate the 10th anniversary of a fabulous charity."

Qualified mechanics run both the daytime and evening sessions at the charity, with the daytime programme providing an alternative learning facility for under-achieving and disaffected young people, and the evening sessions being aimed at those in mainstream education.

Two of the original GASP

founders – Anthony Cassidy and Alan O'Hea – were there to share in the occasion, with chairman Sally Varah also announcing three new patrons.

These included Judge Christopher Critchlow, entrepreneur Shahid Azeem, and Jim McAllister, owner of Dunsfold Park and the Top Gear Track, where GASP students are invited to test drive the go-karts they have built.

Guests also heard from Giles Verity, director of manufacturing company Stanhope-Seta, and from James Greenhouse who went from being a GASP evening student to winning a work placement at the company.

Mr Verity said: "We are offering GASP young people a series of sessions with the company.

"If we can get the same level of enthusiasm I saw at the McLaren GASP Awards ceremony, it will be brilliant."



**SUPPORT:** Mole Valley's MP Sir Paul Beresford with GASP chairman Sally Varah