

GASP launches News Bulletin

Welcome to the Winter issue of the GASP News Bulletin – the first update on all our activities.

We are producing this bulletin in response to requests from our many donors and supporters – and plan to issue a biannual news round-up. You can access the bulletin on the GASP website www.gaspmotorproject.org and it will be emailed as a pdf to our list of supporters and donors. If you would like to be put on our email database, please contact: lblakeborough@chapterfive.co.uk



The Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Dame Sarah Goad, opens the GASP Workshop.

Successful Workshop opening

The Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Dame Sarah Goad, opened the new purpose-built GASP Motor Workshop at the Sand Pit in Albury in September 2012 and over 100 guests attended the launch.

At the launch Dame Sarah Goad said: “The provision of alternative learning programmes for young people who, for whatever reason, find it hard to engage with mainstream education, has never been more vital. I have watched with interest the development of the GASP Motor Project over the past seven years and am delighted now to be opening this splendid new Workshop. It is also exciting to see the new mobile vehicle, which enables the charity to deliver its programmes to young people right across our county.”

The Workshop was constructed by the Northumberland Estate to the charity's specifications and is now a hive of activity with sessions both morning and evening – more on this later.



PC Matt Taylor, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer presenting a cheque on behalf of the Police Property Act Fund to GASP. L to R: Andy Finch, GASP Chief Executive, Kyle Page (who attends GASP evening sessions), Matt Taylor and Sally Varah, Chair of our charity.

Fundraising and support

GASP is very grateful to all our donors and supporters. Recent grants have been received from the following:

- Comic Relief
- Community Foundation for Surrey 'Dancer Fund'
- Henry Smith Charity
- Michael Varah Memorial Fund
- Police Property Act Fund
- Procter & Gamble
- Rolland Callingham Foundation
- Schutz Engel Trust
- The Betty Riseley Trust
- The Funding Network
- Toyota (GB) plc
- The Wates Foundation

Many thanks to all of you that have donated and supported our charitable work.

Courses are accredited

GASP is delighted to announce that it is now a registered training provider for the AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS). The UAS enables us to record the student's achievement and provides recognition for completing short units of work. In future, all of our courses will offer participants the opportunity to gain this form of accreditation.

“We are delighted to be able to provide accreditation because this means that the young people will have a paper-record of their achievements, which could hopefully facilitate entry to further education or employment,” said Barrie Birchmore, GASP Workshop Manager.



Tracking progress

As a member of The Youth Consortium (Surrey & Borders), GASP has now invested in a new database which will enable the charity to capture the scale and impact of our work with young people. The so-called 'Social Impact Tracker Online' enables contacts and activities to be recorded and monitored. Reports can then be produced on engagement and participation, attendance logged and sessions recorded for group-based and one-to-one activities.

As a result, GASP is now able to capture and report quantitative and qualitative data. This provides an efficient method of providing the required documentation for potential and current funders, management and other key stakeholders.

Workshop session evening event

A very cold December evening saw the first of several 'Open Events' for people interested in seeing what happens in the new Workshop and how the GASP sessions run.

A group of local supporters and Albury Parish Councillors attended the evening, with wine and mince pies to get everyone in the Christmas mood. They watched some of the young people working in a session and the event proved to be a huge success.

More events are planned, so please check the website for further dates.

Volunteers urgently required!

Do you want to work with young people?

Are you interested in joining our increasingly successful charity to help run daytime and/or evening sessions?

For an informal chat, please call Andy Finch (contact details right).

Stop Press...

Following a hugely successful three months since the Workshop was opened, GASP is 'on track' to deliver almost 250 sessions – daytime, evening and mobile – for the financial year ending March 2013. We are all immensely proud of this major achievement for the charity. We're also delighted to announce that the Workshop will be receiving a visit from the Duke of Kent in early February 2013 – more of this in a later issue...

Mobile 'Ambulance' clocks up the Surrey miles

GASP is delivering its daytime sessions across the length and breadth of Surrey.

A grant from the Government's Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund allowed GASP to purchase a 10 year old ambulance from the Surrey Ambulance Service. This is proving to be the ideal vehicle to house all the equipment required by the GASP team to 'take to the road' and deliver our daytime sessions direct to client groups.

"We converted and re-branded the ambulance and now there are over 40 mobile sessions booked over the next few months. And we're in discussions regarding another 30 sessions," explains Andy Finch, GASP Chief Executive Officer. "GASP Mobile is proving to be an ideal delivery tool for a wide range of schools from Farnham-based Abbey School, a special school for young people who have learning difficulties and communication disorders, to Ash Manor School and Collingwood College in Camberley." Most of the programmes delivered to the schools are a minimum of six week programmes with some lasting up to 10 weeks.

Brooklands project

GASP has been partnering with the Brooklands Museum at Weybridge to run a 12-week programme for 'at risk' young people who have been repairing and restoring vehicles used in the Brooklands 'driving days' programme. This programme was funded by a grant from Toyota GB.

Thank you and a Happy New Year!

Last but not least, thank you to all our donors, supporters and volunteers for your support in 2012. We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2013!



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