



Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore (*right*) and GASP evening sessions volunteer, Paddy Furze (*centre*).

## Evening sessions increase

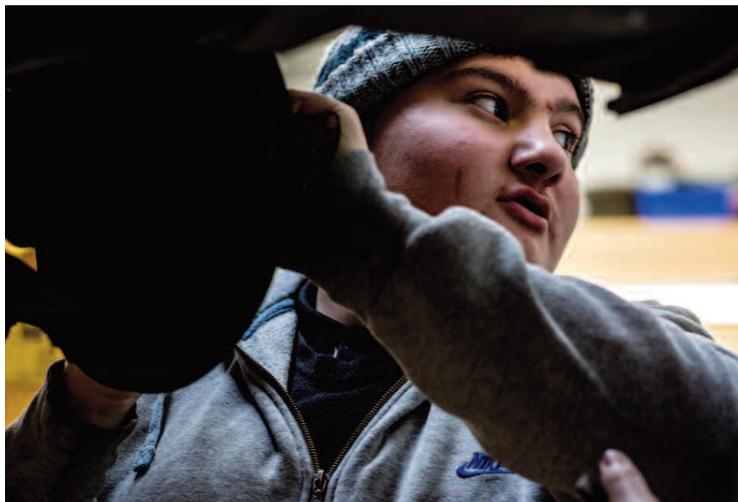
The reputation of our evening courses at the GASP Motor Workshop in Albury – and their popularity with young people – continues to grow. Responding to demand, in September we increased to three the sessions we run between 7pm and 9pm each week during term time. The Monday sessions, led by GASP volunteer Chris Dymond, focus on giving young people who are new to mechanics a basic understanding of what makes a car work. As well as some class-based activity, students (up to six per session) have the chance to get their hands dirty, stripping down engine parts to see how they operate, and working on some of GASP's more basic vehicles.

The Wednesday and Thursday sessions, led by our Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore (*above*), are designed to give those with more mechanics experience an opportunity to broaden their knowledge by working on some of the wide range of cars, motorbikes, and machinery at GASP.

From January 2014, all young people who attend and successfully complete a GASP evening course will be able to gain an AQA Unit Award Accreditation. With this incentive on offer, we anticipate demand will continue to grow.

## Making a difference to people's lives

GASP can adapt our programmes to match the interests and abilities of the young people we work with. An example of how we shaped our delivery to maximise the benefits for students is a programme delivered recently for The Abbey School in Farnham. The Abbey is a special school for 11–16 year olds who have learning difficulties or communication disorders. Taking account of the special needs of the individual young people involved, the GASP team adapted the programme so that we not only engaged them, but enabled them to gain an AQA Unit Award accreditation. We also enabled the students to drive our go-karts in a safe and supervised environment – in all, a truly unique experience for these young people and one which they will remember for a long time.



Funding from Toyota in 2012 paid for GASP to deliver a programme at Brooklands Museum, with young people from the Kingsway Centre in Woking.

## Building links with the motor trade

We are actively looking to grow our relationship with organisations in the motor trade, and so expand the GASP experience for students. The good news is that Toyota GB plc is once again supporting us. In 2012, their funding made it possible for GASP to deliver at Brooklands Museum where, with additional support from the Museum's volunteers, we delivered a major programme for young people from the Kingsway Centre in Woking. This resulted in four students receiving AQA Unit Award accreditation. As our relationship with Toyota grows, we are absolutely delighted that the company has agreed to provide further funding, this time for us to create and pilot an innovative programme for working with special educational needs students.

Toyota is also considering other exciting ways in which we can work together more closely – and which could be invaluable to GASP going forward. These include: links with a local Toyota dealership; possible work experience placements for students; a link with the company's training department, which will enable us to further professionalise our programmes and delivery; and access to potential Toyota volunteers for our evening sessions.

More on our developing links with the motor trade, and in particular a programme we are working on with McLaren, will appear in the next News Bulletin.

Commenting on the programme, an instructor from The Abbey School said: **"GASP staff showed great understanding and empathy and were very encouraging to our students. They communicated easily and effectively and were patient without appearing condescending and never overly compensated for any shortcomings they may have detected. They operated with a lovely balance between guiding the students and yet allowing them to work through the project, even if it meant making mistakes or working at a slower pace."**

**"I cannot praise GASP highly enough – any students lucky enough to benefit from this programme are very privileged."** Instructor; The Abbey School, Farnham



All photography: David Morgan

Pupils from Kings College School in Guildford participated in the GASP workshop sessions visited by the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Deputy.

## Police & Crime Commissioner visits

The GASP workshop at Albury and our mobile unit recently welcomed Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, and – on a subsequent visit – his deputy, Jeff Harris. Both men watched pupils from Kings College School in Guildford who were engrossed in sessions. They talked with the Year 9 students and also spoke with the member of staff and the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who accompanied them, about the impact of our workshop experience on these young people. In a schoolroom context, they were told, the group attending the session would find it difficult to engage with the normal academic curriculum, and their attention span was often measured in minutes.

With GASP staff as role models, providing advice and guidance, the young people were totally absorbed in their work on a range of our vehicles. Working together in small teams, they learnt new skills, stuck to the tasks they were set, and above all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Subsequent feedback from the Commissioner's Office was that Kevin Hurley and Jeff Harris were impressed with all that they saw. There are very real benefits of taking the GASP model and programmes out into the community, to work with young people who are at risk of becoming NEET and of potentially offending. So we are now approaching the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Fund, for a grant to support the expansion of our 'mobile' programme.

## Thanks to recent funders

- GASP has recently received funding from:
- Community Foundation for Surrey**
- Combined grant in memory of Andy Stillman/MVMF**
- Wates Foundation**
- Roland Callingham Foundation**
- Toyota GB plc**

We are most grateful to all our donors for their generous support.

## 97 young people gain accreditation

In the 12 months since GASP became an AQA Unit Award Delivery Centre, we have been able to accredit 97 young people. Commenting on the success of the programme, Andy Finch, Chief Executive said: "This is a fantastic result for GASP. The young people with whom we work are often the hardest to engage. Some are disruptive and on the margins of their communities. Many are still in school, but unresponsive to academic work. Others are not in education and on the streets during the daytime. Invariably they are considered to be at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). GASP has been able to engage these young people, often for the first time, in a structured learning programme, and their efforts have been recognised by AQA."

An AQA assessor commented: "This small workshop is providing practical experience to numbers of young people who are gaining great benefit from having their achievements acknowledged by receipt of an AQA certificate."

## Local Prevention Framework update

The 'after school' programme GASP is delivering as part of the Surrey County Council LPF contract is now well underway. The purpose of the LPF is to prepare young people for participation in employment, and to prevent them from becoming NEET.

GASP courses have been delivered at Woolmer Hill School in Haslemere, Farnham Heath End School and at Kings College, Guildford. The courses run one afternoon a week for six weeks; the young people work on a wide range of small vehicles, including go-karts, scooters and quad bikes. They learn basic motor mechanics skills, and develop a range of soft skills including team working, communication, behaviour, and timekeeping. To the end of November 2013, nine of the young people taking part had achieved an AQA Unit Award. The programme is now being rolled out in both Broadwater and Rodborough schools in Godalming.



**For further information, please contact:**  
 Andy Finch: [andy.finch@gaspmotorproject.org](mailto:andy.finch@gaspmotorproject.org)  
 T: 07786 939798

**[www.gaspmotorproject.org](http://www.gaspmotorproject.org)**

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