

## A President for GASP

When HRH The Earl of Wessex came to our GASP workshop at Albury in February (*see full coverage of the Royal Visit inside*) he was greeted by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux. And it wasn't just Prince Edward who impressed everyone with his enthusiasm for our work and the relaxed manner in which he engaged with the students and put them at their ease. The Lord-Lieutenant similarly demonstrated a real rapport with the young people and showed himself keen to discover more about what they learn at GASP.

Encouraged by his interest in our work, and with our fingers firmly crossed, we invited Michael More-Molyneux to become President of the GASP Motor Project. The exciting news is that he wrote to say that he was "absolutely delighted" to accept the Presidency – adding how much he had enjoyed "such a wonderful afternoon seeing all those young people showing their enthusiasm for all things mechanical".

This is a new role for our charity. We know that the Lord-Lieutenant's support – combined with that of our existing



George Stonehill (right) and Emmanuel Mirandah from St. Peter's School with HM Lord-Lieutenant – our new President – at the Royal Visit.

Photograph: Jane Garrett

Patrons – will enable us to spotlight still further the work we are doing to re-engage and enthuse young people for whom learning can often be problematic – but not at GASP!



Dr Sara Arber from the Geoff Herrington Foundation with students during her visit to Rodborough School at Milford.

## After school achievements

Thanks to a generous grant from the Geoff Herrington Foundation (GHF), the GASP Mobile Workshop is now delivering 'After School' programmes to students at five secondary age schools in Waverley Borough. The courses provide a valuable diversionary activity at the end of the school day, which is often a challenging time for young people. They work on a variety of motor vehicles and related parts, under the guidance of two GASP instructors. All have the opportunity to complete AQA Unit Awards in Health & Safety in a Workshop, and Assembling a Petrol Driven Go-Kart.

Our aim is to help those who take part to improve their soft skills – including teamworking, communication and motivation – and gain useful practical and employability experience. During autumn term 2016, pupils from Farnham

Heath End School and Broadwater School at Godalming benefited. In the summer term we are working with Glebelands School, Cranleigh; Rodborough School at Milford; and Woolmer Hill in Haslemere.

Six students from Broadwater School completed the programme and received their Health & Safety AQA Award. Broadwater School's external and alternative curriculum co-ordinator, Russell Wait, says this is a greater achievement than it may sound: "For some of our more vulnerable students this has been an incredible experience. Of the six who participated, five were low ability students. All were incredibly successful and positive about the course, which allowed them to demonstrate what they were capable of, away from a classroom setting.

"Our experience is that lower ability students often look to more vocational pathways to continue their education, so the fact that this gave them a flavour of work in the real world was excellent. The GASP programmes have helped some of our most vulnerable students to decide their next steps in terms of post 16 education. Slightly more able students have been inspired to drive towards their ambitions of being engineers and are actively looking out career pathways to develop this."

In early May, Dr Sara Arber, wife of the late Geoff Herrington and GHF Founder and Trustee, visited (*above*) and commented: "I was truly impressed by the commitment and skills of the young people at Rodborough in the GASP 'After School' session. They were skilfully taking apart a mini motorbike and learning about 2-stroke engines, working well as a team and clearly enjoying the challenge." And in June we heard that the GHF is to fund a further five courses for young people from areas of deprivation in Surrey.

## Royal Engineers!

We were delighted to welcome HRH The Earl of Wessex to the GASP Motor Project Workshop on Thursday 23rd February. This was the second time that Prince Edward had witnessed GASP in action. Back in March 2015 we demonstrated our Mobile Workshop to him up at High Ashurst – and now here he was at Albury, enthusiastically experiencing at first hand the positive outcomes for those who learn with our charity.

The Earl was surrounded by young people buzzing with the excitement of practical engineering and he met pupils from five schools plus students from our evening workshops. Each group demonstrated the different skills they have learned on our accredited programmes, delivered either in the workshop

at Albury or via the Mobile Workshop that takes GASP sessions out across the county.

- A joint group from St Peter's School in Guildford and Woking High School showed our Royal visitor how they strip down and reassemble 4-stroke engines.
- Students from Bishop David Brown School at Sheerwater revealed many of the engineering techniques they had learnt on a 12-week Industry-Linked programme, delivered by GASP in partnership with the Queen's Award winning precision engineering company, Stanhope-Seta at Chertsey.
- Outside the workshop, pupils from Broadwater School, Godalming and its COIN centre described what they learn from the GASP Mobile Workshop team.

Photographs: Jane Garrett



GASP evening students (from left): Robert Honey, Tomas McMahon, Jack O'Brien and James Crosson, supported by GASP evening volunteers Chris Dymond (extreme left) and Robert Cooke, explained to our Royal visitor how they had built and raced the Greenpower electric kit car – with Alex Pettitt in the driving seat!



Alannah Collins, Lucy Francis and Tegan Brown from Woking High School showed HRH that girls can be inspired by hands on learning just as much as boys, as they worked confidently on a 4-stroke engine. "I'd never done anything like this before but now I think of engineering as a possible career option," said Lucy. Tegan added: "Now I know more than my brother about engines!"



- Young people from the surrounding villages who choose to attend the evening sessions – and who are daytime pupils at Glebelands School in Cranleigh and Godalming College, amongst others – talked to the Royal Visitor for over 10 minutes about their development of two Greenpower Electric Kit Cars and how they have raced them at Goodwood and Dunsfold Park.

At every stage of the tour, His Royal Highness met members of the GASP delivery team, management and trustees, together with those who play a key role in the development of our charity, and schools and guests from referring groups and partner organisations. Also present were some of our funders, without whom GASP could not provide such tangible benefits for these would-be Royal Engineers!



Students from Broadwater School and its COIN Centre showed Prince Edward the mechanics skills they had learnt during sessions delivered from the GASP Mobile Workshop, including working on a quad bike.

**“The GASP Industry-Linked programme builds our students’ confidence and promotes a sense of self-esteem. It provides invaluable opportunities for them to work in a real-life environment that develops knowledge, understanding and skills in ways that would not be possible in school.** Simon Sharples, Woking High School



Mr Michael More-Molyneux, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey – and now our GASP President – greeted The Earl of Wessex on his arrival at the GASP workshop and presented the Chair of Surrey County Council, Mrs Sally Marks; the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Gordon Jackson; Surrey County Council's CEO, Mr David McNulty (shaking hands); and Deputy Chief Constable Gavin Stephens from Surrey Police.



Before leaving, HRH unveiled a plaque to mark his tour of the GASP Motor Project workshop – and noted that he was not our first Royal visitor!

**“The GASP course has had a positive impact on the girls in that they are prioritising STEM subjects as their future post 16 and 18 subject choices and considering the world of engineering as a career, in a way they were not doing before the Industry-Linked programme.”**

Paul Godfrey, Assistant Head Teacher,  
Bishop David Brown School, Sheerwater.



**“A huge thanks for inviting us to attend the Royal Visit yesterday. It was really nice to see the support that GASP gets from schools and the recognition from dignitaries of your hard work. It was great to see and meet so many people that fund provision for students that struggle. I think what you are doing is absolutely fantastic and I would really like to see you grow from strength to strength!”**

Russell Wait, Broadwater School, Godalming.



Emmanuel Mirandah and George Stonehill from St Peter's School, Guildford, supported by GASP sessional worker Clive Lunn, were in the first group of students presented to His Royal Highness.



Our CEO, Henry Curwen (right), presented GASP Workshop Manager, Barrie Birchmore, to The Earl and together they briefed him on the GASP daytime Workshop programme delivery and our alternative learning approach, including the Annual Awards event at McLaren.



Evening student Robert Honey discussed electric car technology with Prince Edward. We were proud to announce at the Royal Visit that Robert has been accepted by Rolls Royce for their Engineering Management, Masters Degree course with Warwick University and that he has said – without our prompting: “I would not have managed this without the experience I have gained at GASP.”



Jasmine Merrall, Milly Jones and Julia Siwak (left to right) from Bishop David Brown School at Sheerwater demonstrated the engineering techniques they had learnt on a 12-week Industry-Linked programme delivered by GASP in partnership with the Queen's Award winning precision engineering company, Stanhope-Seta at Chertsey. It made such an impression on Julia that she said: “Now I want to do work experience with Stanhope-Seta.” And before the Royal Visit was over, the company's CEO had offered her that opportunity.

## A visit from the Surrey Hills Society

GASP became an Affiliate Member of the Surrey Hills Society (SHS) last year. It was a natural next step for our charity, given that our workshop close to Newlands Corner – where young people come to learn with us – is in the heart of the Surrey Hills.

On 22nd March we were absolutely delighted to welcome some other members of the Society to our workshop (above). Led by the enthusiastic SHS Chairman, Chris Howard, they met our Wednesday evening group and discovered what these students learn at GASP – not surprisingly there was a lot of talk about the electric kit car build and racing!

Chris Howard is a monthly contributor to *Surrey Life* magazine and in the July edition she describes GASP as “a life-changing project” and writes: “I still get surprised when I discover things happening in the Surrey Hills that are right under my nose, and I know nothing about. This happened recently when I was invited to visit an extraordinary youth project based at the bottom of Newlands Corner in Albury.”

One of the things that our visitors found inspiring about GASP was the range of local companies that have got behind our small charity. “More important though than money, is the opportunities



these companies offer the young people who take part,” says Chris Howard. “Just as the Surrey Hills Society is a network of people working to support the special countryside here in Surrey, the GASP Motor Project and its network of supporters are making a real difference to young people’s lives from this tiny workshop at the base of one of Surrey’s most famous beauty spots.”

We look forward to more collaborative working with the Society and its members – and to showing the very real benefits we offer to young people here in the heart of the Surrey Hills.




## New season for GASP electric cars

Three of our evening students – inspired by last season’s successes in the Greenpower F24 championship, but now too old for the standard class – are entering one of our electric kit cars ‘Go GASP’ into the 2017 F24+ championship. This class – for 16-25 year olds – is aimed at sixth forms, youth groups, apprentices and universities, so there is likely to be some stiff competition.

The trio will be sharing ‘Go GASP’ with the younger team in the F24 class, so we hope the car survives the inter-team rivalry as well as the extra racing. We need to source sets of batteries and tyres to cope with the extra demand and are currently looking to get sponsorship funding for this (please contact our CEO Henry Curwen if you can help to support the electric racing with a one-off donation).

The recent practice day at Goodwood for all the teams showed up a few problems with the cars, after the winter lay-up. The Wednesday evening group is prototyping a new steering wheel, with a full design and assessment programme: the current favourite draws heavily on Formula One design. The Monday group is investigating tyre wear on the front wheels, which seems to be costing ‘Brightspark’ precious seconds on each lap.

Parents and GASP Friends are encouraged to support both the ‘Go GASP’ and ‘Brightspark’ teams. We have confirmed entries for the full-length circuit at Goodwood on Sunday 25th June, and at Dunsfold Park on 10th September. Find us on Facebook  for the results @GASPMotorproject.



## The Wisley Foundation supports GASP

We write a lot about our front-end delivery in this News Bulletin and the different ways that GASP programmes successfully re-engage young people with learning. But alongside all of that, and every bit as vital to our charity moving forward, is the need to ensure that we have the capacity to effectively administer and develop the current and future workload of GASP.

Now, a significant donation from The Wisley Foundation is enabling GASP to further professionalise our operation, with new IT equipment, software and support. In turn this helps us to streamline the delivery of basic motor mechanics and practical engineering programmes to often marginalised young people right across Surrey.

As its website explains, The Wisley Foundation was founded in 2009 to take a more strategic approach to the charitable funds raised by the members of The Wisley Golf Club. Since then, their focus has been to work with and support small, local charities in Surrey whose work is often with young people.



Thanks to The Wisley and its members, our GASP IT infrastructure is now ‘future proof’ and secure, with the resources to adapt to the changing landscape.

## Celebrating young people's assets

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) – one of the UK's most respected grant givers – has recently reviewed the way it funds organisations that work with young people. Its focus now is on the inherent assets of the young people themselves, which fits with our own strategy here at GASP.

This is how the Foundation's website explains the asset-based approach: "It is not about 'positive thinking' or pretending that young people do not face problems. It is about finding a way to address these challenges that is empowering, and that does not reduce young people to being victims, or a checklist of problems to be solved. Organisations that adopt an asset-based approach will seek to identify and celebrate young peoples' assets. They will support young people to nurture and build on these strengths, developing the skills, networks and resilience required to thrive independently."

This concept dovetails with the way we work and so, recognising the potential synergy, GASP applied to PHF for a grant. We were elated to receive funding over a two-year period. This will allow us to consolidate the delivery of our programmes that identify, nurture and build on students' assets and often help them to move on – and thrive – in training and potential employment. The grant will also enable us to further professionalise our offer and position our charity for future growth.

Our CEO, Henry Curwen, attended a workshop in London in March, joining other recipients of PHF grants to explore the concept of asset-based approaches. The Foundation is generously funding a further workshop in Hull, where we will share best practice and develop this approach further. This grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation represents a ringing endorsement of our work – and its outcomes for young people – and we could not be more grateful.



Aidan from St Peter's School, Guildford working on the electric mini quad bike

## The right alchemy for GASP

We are now sourcing exciting new teaching resources for the GASP Workshops thanks to The Alchemy Foundation.

First to arrive is this electric mini quad bike (above), which fits neatly into the Mobile Workshop. Once the GASP team arrives at a group's site, the quad can be offloaded from our vehicle and moved through any single doorway. This means students have the choice of learning in a classroom setting, using the bike to give hands-on experience of motor engineering. It is already proving an exciting challenge and giving young people an introduction to electric vehicles – keeping up with technology.

## Students discover they 'Can Do'

Giving students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) the opportunity to try their hand at a range of entirely new skills and to build their confidence and self-esteem along the way is what we call our GASP 'Can Do' programme. Back in 2014 the Peter Harrison Foundation awarded us brave new funding over three years to develop, pilot and roll out 'Can Do' to 10 Special Schools across Surrey. Delivering the workshops at our GASP Workshop or using the Mobile Workshop, we have targeted students who have either:

- Learning difficulties – ie Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger Syndrome or similar
- Behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The responses from these schools and the outcomes for the young people lucky enough to have benefited have been life enhancing and extremely encouraging. The schools have evaluated the positive impact on their SEN students – who have really engaged with vehicle mechanics, many of them achieving AQA Unit Awards – and several asked if the GASP team can deliver another programme.

That requires ongoing funding, of course, and the good news is that the Dorking-based St. Faith's Trust has generously agreed to support GASP so that we can continue the 'Can Do' programme over the next three years, without a break. In 2017-2020 we will be delivering 12 programmes in Special Schools – and will report on the progress of the first cohorts of students in our next News Bulletin.



## Make a date

GASP has supported the Shere Hill Climb from a standing start in 2013. In turn, what has rapidly become one of the UK's most successful hill climb events has donated a share of its profits to GASP (and other local charities) each year. The new management for 2017 is promising

135+ varied and eclectic vehicles running the hill, an autotest, and a paddock that is open, friendly and social – a great place for owners, drivers and enthusiasts to chat, with motoring stands and stalls.

They have asked our charity to provide a stand and play a more active role by running a practical fun session for any young people attending the event – maybe the famous GASP pitstop challenge and the chance to showcase our electric kit cars. So the GASP team will be there on 3rd September – please put the date in your diary and come and find us!

<http://www.sherehillclimb.co.uk>



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