



## Third Greenpower Kit Car on the grid

GASP evening students lined up for the Greenpower Education Trust Race Event at Dunsfold Park last September and were cheered on by a crowd of their supporters, including GASP Patrons, Friends and Trustees. The F24 class racing is very competitive – against 50+ schools and organisations similar to GASP, from across the UK and other countries.

The young people who attend our sessions three nights a week raced in the two electric kit cars they had built: 'Brightspark' (Monday group) and 'GoGASP' (Wednesday group). It was great to see them working together as they prepared for the races – and the friendly rivalry between each car team once on the track! The results were impressive: 'Brightspark' came 6th and 'GoGASP' 10th overall, with 'Brightspark' winning the Spirit of Greenpower trophy. The



dedicated volunteers who run the evening programme each week for GASP turned out to organise the logistics of the day and to support the teams – special thanks to Rob Cooke, Chris Dymond and James Martin – and photographer Dave Whillier.

The great news for the 2019 season is that The Kelsey Trust (which sponsored the 'Brightspark' kit car) has just provided more funding for GASP to buy a third Greenpower electric kit car for the Thursday evening group of students to build and race. What's more, Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Woking District, who were at Dunsfold to cheer on the GASP teams, were so impressed by their enthusiasm and skills that they are purchasing smart new boiler suit uniforms for all the evening students AND having them printed with GASP and Rotary International branding. Our three teams can't wait for the next race at Goodwood in May!



## A vintage Ripley Vehicle Meet for GASP

The 16th Ripley Vintage, Veteran and Classic Vehicle Meet attracted hundreds of gleaming entries on one of the hottest days of last summer. We are immensely grateful that the Rotary Club of Woking District, who organised the Meet in conjunction with Ripley and Send Rotary Club, chose GASP as the beneficiary charity. We received an amazing £1,500 – all donations from owners who entered their immaculate vehicles and those visitors attending the event.



Our GASP stand attracted lots of visitors, thanks to evening students Josh, Evan and Samantha who promoted the charity's work so enthusiastically, along with volunteer Chris Dymond and our mobile staff team of Howard James and Simon Boyden.

The owners of the Meet's winning car even invited Samantha – in her '50s Retro Goodwood outfit – to hop in the back for their victory circuit of the main ring!

**Our Impact 2017-18 academic year:** 244 young people embarked on courses – of those, 204 gained AQA Unit Awards and 22% were female. We delivered over 4,270 learning hours, including 30 Early Intervention programmes and 10 'Can Do' courses for young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN).



## Award winners celebrate at McLaren

The GASP Motor Project Awards Presentation Event 2018 was held at The McLaren Technology Centre on 6th November 2018. This was the fifth consecutive year that the world-leading company has hosted the awards ceremony for GASP. It is the perfect venue, showing the winning students what they can aspire to – and appropriately, one of the awards was presented by the McLaren Group Brand Director, Michael Edgecombe.

The 15 winners present, who had all taken part in GASP Motor Project programmes during the 2017-18 academic year, received awards for practical ability and life skills such as perseverance, engagement, commitment and

enthusiasm. The GASP Chair, Sally Varah, said: *"This reflects the ethos of our charity: to give students who often find classroom learning a struggle, the opportunity to blossom by working in teams on practical challenges."* And as GASP is about helping young people to develop their potential, there were also awards for students demonstrating outstanding performance in industrial placements and for progressing to higher education and a career in engineering.

To be surrounded by legendary Formula 1 racing cars and space-age innovation was awe-inspiring for them all. Presenting the certificates and tool kit prizes, in front of the winners' supporting guests, were GASP sponsors,



The **15 Award winners** at the Presentation Event lined up for this photograph with one of the latest Formula 1 cars, before heading off with their guests for an exclusive tour of the McLaren Technology Centre.



**Levi Treadwell, Bobbie Kurn, Paige Higgs and Megan Hall** (left to right), students at Gosden House School, received the 'Group Achievement Award', with Rose Bowl Trophy and cash prizes donated by Surrey County Council and presented by the Council's Chairman, Councillor Tony Samuels. The GASP experience has shown these girls that they can problem-solve in ways that they wouldn't necessarily have thought they could do, leading to improved well-being, self-esteem and confidence.



**James Cringle** from The Well Project in Guildford, was presented with the 'Total Engagement Award' by Andrea Herrington of the Geoff Herrington Foundation (GHF). James demonstrated a level of maturity and focused on the job in hand throughout the six-week programme for students at risk of exclusion from school, funded by the GHF.



supporters and stakeholders, together with our President, Surrey's Lord-Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux and his wife Sarah; Jim Glover, High Sheriff of Surrey 2018-2019; and Tony Samuels, Chairman of Surrey County Council who provided sponsorship for the event.

**“GASP gets better and better. To see these young award winners and hear what they have achieved is uplifting. McLaren is amazing for what it does for GASP: its increasing generosity and commitment is very much appreciated.”**

Michael More-Molyneux, Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey and President of GASP



The 'Personal Development Award' went to **Sarah Innes** from Woking High – the school confirms that taking part in a six-week course at the GASP Workshop has given her more confidence and that she is now better able to make greater strides in many areas of school life. Presenting the Award was Mrs Sarah More-Molyneux.



**Oliver Hare** from Bishop David Brown School at Sheerwater received the 'Outstanding Work with Industry Award' from Giles Verity, Director of Stanhope-Seta, the precision engineering company in Chertsey with whom GASP runs our Industry-Linked programme. Competent and confident, Oliver had a mature outlook towards a wide range of tasks. Giles Verity thanked McLaren for the spectacular venue, saying: *“We have had another successful year with GASP students coming to us to do hands-on work, from wiring to CAD, to testing the effectiveness of packaging.”*

**“My son went from being quite shy and not confident enough to talk to people, to being motivated and wanting to talk. When he goes to motor shows now he goes up to people to talk about cars. GASP has done him a world of good.”**

Award winner's mother



**Callum Crawley** from The Park School in Woking, took part in a course funded by St Faith's Trust and won the 'Enthusiasm to Learn Award'. The President of the Rotary Club of Woking District, Andy Beckett, presented both Callum's Award and a cheque to GASP for £1,500 (see front cover). Callum said: *“I learned a lot more stuff at GASP and was pleased they let us use the bikes and go karts and BMX. I felt like I was actually working on something real.”*



The Borrows Charitable Trust is providing financial support to GASP from 2018 to 2020 and Mrs Sally Borrows presented **Summer Slingo** from Farnham Heath End School with the 'Perseverance Award'. Summer gained an AQA award and her enjoyment and participation with GASP improved her focus and determination towards other tasks back at school.



GASP worked with Year 9 students at Woolmer Hill School in Haslemere, who really responded well to the GASP way of learning. **Sam Roebuck** proved to be highly focused and reliable, which is why this stand-out student was rewarded with the 'Positive Attitude to Learning Award'. It was presented to him by the Group Director of Brand Experience at McLaren, Michael Edgecombe



**Dane Lidgley**, who attends our Thursday evening sessions, received the 'GASP Role Model Award' from Mrs Maureen Carruthers, a Trustee of The Wisley Foundation (see page 6). Since joining GASP, Dane has grown in confidence and his social skills have developed. GASP has recently been given a 1966 Ford Anglia 'Harry Potter' car, and Dane has taken on the lead role in mechanically restoring the Anglia, becoming the leader amongst younger members of the group.





**Megan Hall** from Gosden House School won the 'Ongoing Progression Award'. She was offered a work experience placement by GASP during the summer term 2018 (a first for our charity). Gosden House confirms that GASP has been life changing for Megan. Jonathan Heynes from The Waters Foundation, who have consistently supported GASP with funding, was at McLaren to present Megan's award.



**Theo Hallett** has been a key figure in the electric car race team, notably helping to get 'Brightspark' back on track after the speed controller failed on the practice day. That is why he was awarded a 'Greenpower Determination Award', presented to him by Graham Mann, a Trustee of The Walton Charity that has given funding for GASP to pilot 'Motor Mechanics' accredited short courses to three schools in Elmbridge (see page 6).



We introduced a 'Peer Mentoring Award' for 2018, recognising that learning how to engage, understand and motivate others in the group is an important part of the GASP learning experience. **Euan McAulley** from St Peter's School in Guildford stood out as the most effective and empathetic peer mentor of this academic year. His award was presented by Joe Crome from the Community Foundation for Surrey, which provides invaluable funding that enables GASP both to deliver programmes and to keep the lights on in the Workshop. He said: *"So many amazing things are said about GASP and they are all true. It is an outstanding charity that gives young people opportunities that change their lives."*

**"As a Trustee of the High Sheriff Youth Awards, I know we are long standing supporters of the work GASP carries out and we are acutely aware of the huge differences that GASP makes through its creative approach to inclusive alternative methods of learning."**

Jim Glover, High Sheriff of Surrey 2018-2019



**Josh Bell** from Wood Street Village, Guildford, is one of the Monday evening team working on the electric kit car 'Brightspark'. In the workshop he is full of suggestions, coming up with at least ten ideas to solve any problem. One of them usually proves to be the solution! He was presented with a 'Greenpower Determination Award' by Steve Owen-Hughes, Chief Fire Officer of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, who told the assembled guests: *"I'm now in a position to do something more for GASP. We opened our workshop at Reigate for a visit by GASP students recently, and we have now decided to open it up more regularly for GASP to use."*

**"I have worked all round the world, in the military and the fire service, and the one thing I know about mechanics and engineering is that it transcends all languages. People can solve problems together."**

Steve Owen-Hughes, Surrey's Chief Fire Officer



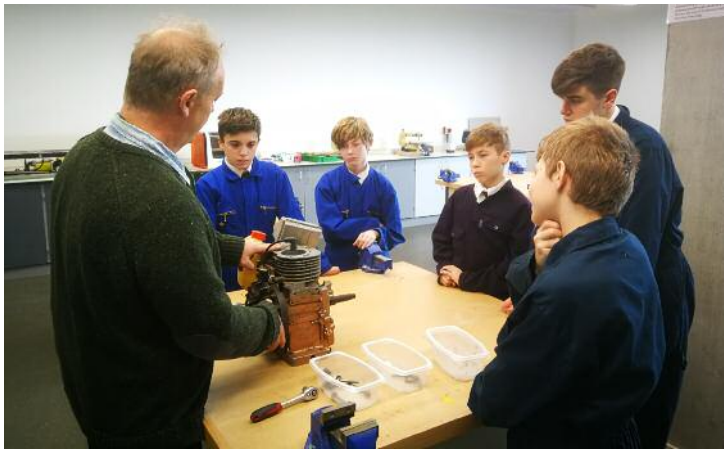
Evening student **Samantha Gill** was the deserved recipient of the 'GASP Ambassador Award' presented by Michael More-Molyneux, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey and our wonderfully supportive GASP President. Profiling the charity at a range of public events, Samantha is always full of enthusiasm, happy to talk about cars, particularly classic cars (see front cover), and to speak about what she learns at GASP. Equally important, she carries this enthusiasm through to her peers during evening workshops and Greenpower race days.

The GASP Bursary, awarded to **Adam Birchmore** who is now studying engineering at Bath University, and the tool kits presented to the 2018 Award winners were donated by the Michael Varah Memorial Fund, as part of that charity's commitment to helping individuals – young and old – to explore their potential, realise their talents and to achieve more in life than they thought possible.

**Canon**

We are immensely grateful to Canon UK & Ireland. The company generously supports GASP by printing this News Bulletin, together with the certificates, programme and citation booklet for the GASP Awards event at McLaren.





## Walton Charity funds Elmbridge pilot

Walton Charity has generously funded a pilot project that enables GASP to deliver motor engineering skills directly to young people in Elmbridge. The qualified engineers who run our Mobile Workshop are delivering practical sessions at Three Rivers Academy and Esher High School (with the third location to be confirmed) for students identified as being at

risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). All are offered the opportunity to achieve AQA certificates, and the hope is that this early intervention will open up a route into vocational training or employment.

In addition to offering the chance to learn new skills, these Mobile sessions largely focus on the learners' personal, social and emotional development, and help to positively change behaviours and attitudes. The project also provides valuable teamwork and communication skills. A young person who has attended the sessions gave us this feedback: *"GASP is different from school because it's all hands-on. I have gained confidence and self-respect – it's not like they are telling us what to do, they are helping us."*

Our GASP CEO, Henry Curwen, confirms: *"GASP is so pleased to be working with Walton Charity again, enabling us to energise young people and re-engage them with learning. This generous grant brings with it the exciting opportunity to develop Elmbridge students' practical and life skills and also to build confidence and self-esteem – so important for their future progression pathway."*

## Joining forces to extend our core delivery

As an extension of our core delivery, GASP joined with the Army last year to provide a Military Day at Windsor Training Barracks. Students from the Surrey schools that had previously taken part in our programmes were invited to sign-up (on a first to apply basis) and the offer was so popular that we had a waiting list! The five successful schools were Farnham Heath End, Jubilee High, Oxted, Tomlinscote and Woking High, each sending teams of six.

It was an action packed day and the energetic students demonstrated real teamwork, giving each challenge their full attention and energy. Activities included: Vehicle Recovery, Electronic Communication and (Infantry) Verbal Communication, while the five team tasks focused on The Tyre Tower, Spider's Web and Blindfold Shapes.

GASP created an AQA Award specifically to support these activities and all 30 students gained a certificate for their



participation and effort. Many thanks to WO2 Matthew Chapman who co-ordinated all the Army units that supplied the activities and provided the venue, and to our Programme Co-ordinator, Lynne Regan, who managed the project for GASP. Hopefully, we will be able to 'join forces' again in the future!



## Celebrating our Surrey Hills home

We're proud that our workshop at Albury is located in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's a unique learning environment for the young people who take part in our daytime and evening programmes.

During 2018, GASP was delighted to join in celebrations to mark 60 years since the Surrey Hills was designated as an AONB. Our President, Surrey's Lord-Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux; GASP Chair Sally Varah; and one of our Patrons, Jim McAllister, were among guests at a splendid Reception in the State Rooms at Speaker's House, Westminster.

Later in the year, GASP evening students, supported by volunteers and staff, were invited to Loseley Park to celebrate 10 years of the Surrey Hills Society, where they ran a stall (left) and showed guests the skills they have learnt building electric race cars.

We are thrilled that the former Chair of the Surrey Hills Society – and now its Vice President – Chris(tine) Howard, has agreed to become a GASP Patron, which further cements our links as one of the Society's Affiliate Members, with the promise of joint initiatives ahead.





## Bespoke Mobile programme for Amber

Thanks to generous funding in memory of Andy Stallman, GASP recently delivered two 12-week programmes to young adults at risk of homelessness, who are referred to Amber in Ockley. Our ethos at GASP fits neatly with that of Amber: we tailor our Mobile session delivery to provide each individual with a bespoke, practical programme that develops skills and resilience, improves confidence, and offers new opportunities that raise aspirations and challenge their residents to move forward positively.



## Motivational talk to Jubilee High

A chance meeting at a 'Style for Soldiers' event led to an inspiring opportunity for Jubilee High School students on our GASP year-long daytime programme. David O'Mahoney had a challenging upbringing, then found a positive path in the armed forces, but had to leave after facing life-changing injuries following a road traffic accident.

He is trying to build a new career delivering Inspirational and Motivational talks, and we were lucky he agreed to deliver a session at GASP: [www.davidomahoney.com](http://www.davidomahoney.com)

It was a moving presentation, very honest and open and this group of disaffected young people responded really well. All felt they could relate to David, as the comment below shows: *"Normally, I don't care about stuff, but his story fascinated me and I knew his life wasn't perfect. I know now – don't keep looking at your past or you won't move on."*

David was generous with his time and has offered to visit GASP again to do a follow-up session with these students. If you have the chance to see David speak, you will come away feeling inspired by his determination to achieve, despite all his set-backs. A life lesson for us all!



## Six in a row

There was a great atmosphere at the sixth Shere Hill Climb, with a hugely varied field of cars driving up the hill. GASP was a nominated charity once again – we're proud that we've been running a stand there and helping to support this event (less than a mile from our Albury Workshop) since year one!

Thanks to the enthusiastic young evening students and adult volunteers and our GASP staff team, there was lots of interest for GASP from competitors and spectators alike – especially when we started to demonstrate how to take an engine apart! Our team members started early and finished late to keep the GASP show on the road.

## White-on with The Wisley!

The Wisley Foundation has continued its immensely positive support to streamline and 'future proof' the work of our charity. Back in 2017, a donation from the Foundation – which manages the charitable funds raised by members of The Wisley Golf Club – enabled GASP to further professionalise our operation with new IT equipment, software and support. Now, thanks to a second major grant in 2018, we have a smart new all-white container office on site at Albury, providing a highly agreeable workplace for our grateful operations and admin team – and a great space for us to meet with visitors. The Wisley connection then got even better when The Foundation's Chairman, Julian Smith (who co-owns a leading design and construction company) donated state-of-the art white office furniture for our new office space. This ongoing belief and investment in our charity by The Wisley Foundation's Trustees is a real motivation for all the GASP team, as we seek to extend the coverage and the positive impact of our work with at risk and marginalised young people across Surrey.



**Hands on learning that helps drive change**

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