

## FEEDBACK – South Shropshire Engineering Ambassadors

South Shropshire Engineers are a voluntary association of mainly retired professional engineers providing support in the promotion of engineering and other STEM subjects in primary schools in South Shropshire. We provide after school clubs in some of the schools, we support schools in the assembly and competitive racing of Goblin cars, and we arrange visits to places of engineering interest. We are also available to support the Design & Technology department of the Bishops Castle Community College in administering an annual engineering challenge for the local primary schools.

The group is immensely grateful to Ludlow Rotary for having generously funded us for two years now in the activities that we undertake in the schools. With co-funding from three other donors, the grant from Ludlow Rotary enabled us to carry out a full programme of activities throughout the school year. During the autumn term 2022, we ran after school engineering clubs in St George's School, Clun, and in Bishops Castle primary school. These were aimed at giving the pupils in Years 5 & 6 a first introduction to engineering as a career, including its various branches.

During the Spring term 2023, work started on assembling the Goblin cars in seven schools, Bucknell, Clun, Bishops Castle, Norbury, Chirbury, Stokesay and Wistanstow, under the supervision of our ambassador team, including procuring replacement parts as necessary. The assembled cars came together for the first time at time trials held at the Community College in Bishops Castle in early June and then on 14 June the school teams, with their cars, were transported by coach to a race meet held at the Curborough Sprint track, near Lichfield in Staffordshire. The teams all competed well against other schools from Shropshire and Staffordshire but were up against strong competition and were not able to bring home any prizes.



Other activities have included supporting the Community College Primary Challenge which this year required the pupils in the eight schools participating to construct marble runs, using wood, paper, card and any other waste materials, the objective being that the marble would take the longest time possible to travel from the top to the bottom of the run, without stopping. The eight schools came together at an

event held at the Spark Centre, adjacent to the Community College, on Wed. 21 June to present and test their constructions. During the event, we assisted in adjudicating the entries and in organising activities to engage those children not actively participating in the adjudication process.



Marble runs on display



Prize giving

On 29 June, a visit to the RAF Cosford Aircraft Museum, was arranged for those local South Shropshire schools not taking part in this year's Goblin events. Four schools took part, Newcastle, Lydbury North, Clunbury and Onny, comprising 36 children along with adults.

Apart from the opportunity for the children to view the various displays at the museum, many of historic importance in two world wars, a dedicated activity to involve the children in making rocket cars in hanger 1 was arranged by the Access and Learning team at the museum. This proved to be great fun and a rewarding source of entertainment for the children. The children, many of whom had never been to the aircraft museum before, returned home with a much greater appreciation of the remarkable heritage available within the South Shropshire area.