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Incorporating the Havering Herald

Write stuff for novel success

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AN-EX Coopers School student is celebrating the publication of his first book - and will soon make it a novel hat-trick.

And he's still only 18 years of age.

Gavin Harper started to write '50 Awesome Auto Projects for the Evil Genius' last September after buying a worn out mini.

The book, which will be on sale from September 30, was only completed this June.

Mr Harper, of Fairfield Avenue, Upminster, said: "I got the idea for the book after I bought the mini.

"I had lot of ideas for it and I wanted to add luxury features. I tried a lot of experiments and some were successful, some weren't, but I wished I'd had a one-point place for all this information."

He used his own ideas in the book and carried out lots of internet research before he began to approach publishers.

Mr Harper added: "I tried a small one in London, but I had a lot of trouble as the book includes ideas for automobiles and Americanised cars so they thought it was for an American market, although I think its just as useful in Europe."

Eventually, it was an American publisher who took up the book, McGraw Hill, based in New York. They will also be publishing Mr Harper's next two books.

"The first is Build Your Own Car PC, which he will be completing within the next couple of weeks and should be published this year and then 50 Model Rocket Projects for the Evil Genius, which will be released next year.

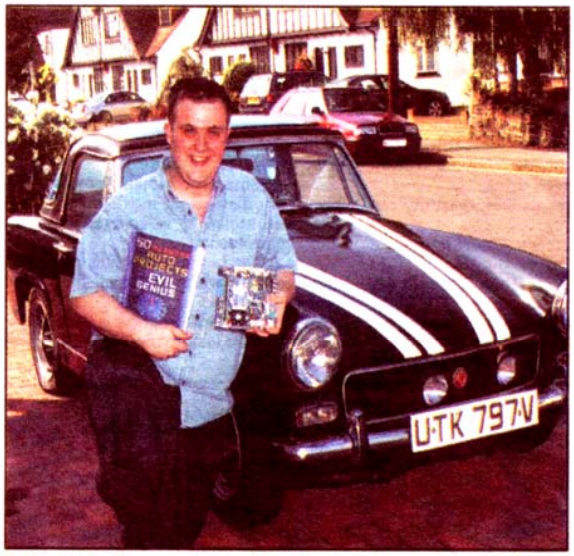
The teenager is now looking forward to promoting the book. He will be going to New York later this year to meet his editor, who has only just found out his real age because Mr Harper did not want them to turn him away for being so young.

Mr Harper, who lives with his grandparents, said: "I'm quite pleased with my achievement and everyone is really proud of me. I've always done things differently."

He left Coopers Company and Coborn School, St Mary's Lane, at 16 to complete a degree at the Open University and will be going on to complete a Masters degree this September.

He will study Architecture and Advanced Environment and Energy studies at the Centre for Technology in Wales.

50 Awesome Auto Projects for the Evil Genius will also be on sale in Mr Harper's local bookshop, Swan Books in Corbets Tey Road.



Whiz kid: 18-year-old genius Gavin Harper with his latest book, out this month.

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