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Students taking part in the GASP motor project with John Samuel (centre), Rob Collard (left) and tutors at the workshop in Albury.

## Course empowers young mechanics

TEENAGERS are helping to build two Greenpower Formula 24 electric kit cars with the GASP Motor Project.

The charity, based in Albury, runs evening sessions at its workshop three times a week during term-time for students in mainstream education.

The youths, aged 13 to 17, are learning mechanics by building the electric cars that will race on the Goodwood circuit, in Chichester on Sunday April 17.

The charity's showcase event on Wednesday March 9

saw the students meet with supporters and Friends of the charity, and provided an opportunity to show of their newly-learned skills.

Andy Finch, chief executive of GASP, said: "Once the cars are built, each GASP group will form a team and compete in a programme of regional heats, two 90-minute races, organised by Greenpower at some of the best motorsport venues.

"We are immensely grateful to the volunteers who run our evening sessions, all of them trained engineers,

who had the idea to encourage our students to embrace new technologies in this exciting way, and who will be taking the teams and their Greenpower electric cars to Goodwood."

Cameron McKenzie, one of the students working on the project, said: "It's a great opportunity for us. We are learning how to build the cars and other students will be able to improve on them. The best bit is that we will get the chance to race them.

"I have always enjoyed engineering. I have had great

fun and learned a lot at GASP. It is really interesting here."

Another student, David Sequeira, said: "I really enjoy it. Getting the car working and testing it will be really good as I am hoping to become a motor mechanic."

Sir John Samuel, a Friend of GASP, was invited to speak about his career working on electric car development in the UK and US, including on the Enfield 8000 in Phoenix, Arizona in 1969, where it caught the eye of one Ronald Reagan, the then Governor of California.