

Quentin



READER Gareth Johns says: Well done for highlighting the problem with the ABS pump on the 04-08 Golf and Touran! I took my wife's 06-plate Touran into the local VW dealer with the same ESP warning light fault. Instead of having to pay £1,600, VW coughed up for the new pump and all I had to find was £150 for labour. Challenging VW made them do the right thing in the end.

QUENTIN SAYS: If you know your car is suffering from a common fault like this, make sure the service manager knows you know what you're talking about, and that you've done your research on the internet. It's also worth phoning the manufacturer's customer service department. As soon as they realise there's a high incidence of the same problem, they'll usually cave in and come up with a goodwill gesture. Don't be fobbed off.

Fast track kids to start driving at 12

I'M not the only one saying that we need more driver education, and that kids should learn as early as possible. Seat's Young Driver programme has been hugely successful, with sites in Birmingham, Wembley and Manchester offering lessons to children as young as 12.

Now the Australian government wants to do the same thing, proposing that driving awareness becomes part of the school curriculum.

Speed cameras haven't worked, so let's use early driver education and common sense instead.



GRAND OLD LADY

THE Merc 190 Diesel in this picture is one of the best cars I've ever owned. A 1990 with just 50k, I bought it five years ago for £1,500, and it's still worth that and more.

All it's ever needed is one battery.

It does 50mpg, is slower than Queen Victoria's funeral, but I love it to bits. So if you see a cheap 190 in nice nick with low mileage, snap it up. Eighties Mercs are becoming cool.

PAY A HOLLIDAY

KNOCKDOWN PRICES AT SUMMER AUCTIONS

If you're not heading off on your hols, now's the perfect time to change your motor.

Over the last month the supply of cars at auctions has swelled, and this week I've seen some real value. Dealers say business has quietened down, and prices are much saner than they were in June.

How about an 03-plate BMW 316i SE with just 59k for £2,900? That's a posh motor with lots of life left for less than three grand.

If you're on a tight budget, an 03-plate Daewoo Matiz SE with 58k for £600 is cheaper than walking, and so is a 52-plate Ford Ka Collection with 74k for a mere £825. Both

are modern, thrifty wheels for less than a large one.

British Car Auctions have just launched a new website for private buyers, so you can search up to 13,000 cars at sites across the country. It's free, easy and includes prestige, sports, plus buying tips.

This week I saw an 03 Merc A140 Avantgarde with a modest 54k miles make £2,450, a Skoda Octavia vRS Estate (that's the fast one the cops use) with 88k knocked down for £1,900, and even a swish 2003 MG TF convertible with 42k for £2,400.

August is traditionally a subdued month for auctions, and for the first time this year I'm seeing motors that look serious bang for your bucks. Go to BCA's website ([www.british-](http://www.british-car-auctions.co.uk)

www.british-car-auctions.co.uk), punch in the car you're after, and you could save yourself the price of a decent holiday. You missed these this week:

- 03 BMW 520i SE, 122k, £2,850
- 03 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.5 CRD, 68k, £2,600
- 03 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.4, 41k, £2,300
- 03 Golf Match, 73k, £2,425
- 03 Fiesta Finesse, 86k, £1,300
- 03 Ford Mondeo 1.8 Graphite 56k, £1,400
- 04 Hyundai Getz 1.1GSi 55, 57k, £800
- 04 Kia Rio 1.3LX, 48k, £900
- 03 Nissan Almera 1.5S, 58k, £1,325
- 03 Skoda Fabia 1.2 Classic, 41k, £1,450.



BMW 316i SE is uptown, contemporary wheels for less than three grand



MGTF with 42k is a cheap summer cabrio for £2,400



Skoda Octavia vRS Estate is quick, practical & long-lasting for silly £1,900

Willson

**BRITAIN'S
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You ask
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**Honda CR-Z
is horny
hybrid**

Q I HAVE a 57-reg Seat Leon 1.9TDi, and am looking to change it for something of similar size and power. I have been toying with the idea of a hybrid, but am unsure. My shortlist includes the VW Golf BlueMotion, Honda CR-Z, Toyota Prius and Renault Megane Coupe. Which would you choose? - *Dale Wigley, Derby*

A BY far the best is the Honda CR-Z hybrid. It'll do 56mpg, 117g/km CO2, and is an absolute

marvel to drive - much more fun than the Prius or BlueMotion. Looks brilliant, too. You'll love every minute.

Q IN January I took delivery of a new Renault Laguna Coupe GT. After 7,000 miles the service warning light came on, even though the manufacturer says that the first service should be at 12 months or 12,000 miles. My local dealer says it does in fact need a service, at a cost of

£238. Is this right? - *Richard Roberts, Shrewsbury*

A THAT sounds a lot for a service, but it is the going rate at main dealers. Your guy is right to say you need a minimum of an oil change at 7,000 miles. Running on the same oil for 12,000 miles isn't a good idea. I change mine every 5,000. So pay the £238 - it'll protect your engine, and save you money in the long run.

NOT LESS



**World's greenest
supercar**

HYBRID SPYDER'S BIG BITE

FANCY a supercar that can do 198mph, hiss to 60 in three seconds, yet return 94mpg and less CO2 than a Toyota Prius?

Well, from this week those numbers are a reality, because Porsche has said it's going to build the ground-breaking hybrid

918 Spyder. Weighing less than a Peugeot 207 CC, thanks to carbon fibre reinforced plastic, aluminium and magnesium, it's got a 500bhp 3.4-litre V8 and two jumbo electric motors good for another 218 horses.

Deeply clever with fluid-

cooled lithium-ion batteries and seven-speed PDK transmission, it's 2010's most revolutionary ride.

Over 1,000 potential buyers have already registered an interest - with the price likely to be slightly shy of £400k, that's some going.



Top spec thrifty A140 Merc with 54k miles is strong value at £2,450

**Freddie's
Shell FuelSave
Challenge**



**13 miles a
litre extra
is a good
innings!**

FLINTOFF FAST DELIVERY

THIS week Shell launched their FuelSave diesel and unleaded with a new efficiency improver. Shell claims that five years of research and thousands of miles of trials mean the average motorist should get an extra litre from every tankful. Cricketer

Freddie Flintoff, Shell's brand ambassador, told me yesterday that by driving economically on FuelSave he managed to squeeze 13 miles from a single litre. Best of all - FuelSave doesn't cost any more than regular gas.



Desirable and hardy Golf 1.6 Match with 73k went for just £2,425



Angels One Five.. a great time check

IF you're into cars, chances are you're into watches too. Two brothers who rebuild WW2 aeroplanes have created a new British brand of watches called Bremont (www.bremont.com). Official timekeepers at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, they're as good as Rolex. Made to look like the dials on old warplanes, they're the best engineered timepieces I've ever come across.

IT'S REAL CANDY, MAN

HERE'S a sound investment. Next month RM auctions are selling Sammy Davis Junior's 1969 Maserati Ghibli. In as new condition with a mountain of history, it's a former concours winner and has the rare automatic option. Estimate is £45k-£58k, but soon these Ghiblis will be touching £100k. Much smarter than BP shares...

