

Your Sunday

HAVE YOUR SAY

LETTERS THIS WEEK PAGE 36

MUMS TO BE CASH IN

PERSONAL FINANCE PAGES 38 & 39

YOUR SEX DOC

I'M SO RANDY THAT I FACE THE SACK PAGE 46

PAGE 40 YOUR MOVIES

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE FOR JEN



FILM OF THE WEEK

ALSO DVDS OF THE WEEK



DUSTY'S TRUSTY

HERE'S one for Dusty Springfield fans. Her 1990 Citroen XM automatic, complete with personal registration D16 UST, is being auctioned this Thursday by Coys. There's no reserve, so it's likely to sell for less than a grand, with part of the proceeds going to the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Quentin



IAN Tucker from Swansea is looking for a Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCi Acenta. Salesmen have been telling him they are sought-after, and they won't budge on price. Is this true? Ian took your recent advice and tried walking away, hoping they'd call him back. But no one did. Ian has about £10,500 cash to spend. Any advice?
QUENTIN SAYS: Too many car dealers don't try hard enough to get business. I get scores of letters like Ian's, where calls and emails are ignored. The

Qashqai is in demand, and used values have ticked up slightly this month, but you can still get a decent deal if you shop around. Motorpoint car supermarkets (Newport branch on 0845 413 2418) have an 07 1.5 DCi Qashqai for £10,999. If you can rustle up another couple of grand, Broadspeed (brokers between dealers and buyers on 0800 191 0000) are offering a 58-plate delivery mileage 1.6 Visia for £11,874.

MAKE SALES OF NEW MOTORS GO WITH A BANGER

THE best way to help the UK car market is to do what the Germans have done. Their €2,500 government incentive to scrap old cars has had massive success, with sales up nearly 25 per cent – the strongest February figures in 10 years. And there's no simpler way of getting people into showrooms. The cash acts as a deposit, helps to guarantee finance and, in some cases, would cut the cost of a new car for UK consumers by at least 25 per cent. It's green, fair, easy to understand and absolutely essential.



Dumping 'em would boost UK car firms

Hello extras, Tata to bargain prices



LOOKS like Tata's econocar will be coming to Europe.

The Indian motor-maker has just unveiled a slightly longer, more upmarket version of the Nano, called the Europa (I thought Lotus owned that name), complete with three-pot engine and five-speed auto.

It comes with niceties like ABS, stability control and airbags, but Tata's new budget baby is beginning to look expensive.

Don't expect much change from £4,500 when it finally arrives here in 2011.

LA-GONDA THEIR HEAD

ALSO at Geneva was Aston Martin's £1million One-77. As if that wasn't enough, they showcased a weird-looking Lagonda V12 4x4 concept, with bold claims about Lagonda becoming a strong presence in 100 global territories.

Rather daring, since there have been reports that AM's Kuwaiti co-owners are considering selling a stake in the British company as part of a debt-restructuring package. Ooh-er.



There have been prettier Lagondas

HOLE

WHO'D DRIVE IT
 Jolly sensible people

THE most sensible and relevant car at Geneva was undoubtedly Volkswagen's invigorated Polo.

Longer, wider, greener and more interesting, it shares its platform with the Seat Ibiza and Skoda Fabia, and includes fuel-sipping engines capable of 74mpg and 96g/km CO₂.

Six-speed manual gearboxes come as standard, and you'll even be able to specify a seven-speed DSG box on the 1.4 models.

VW have also ramped up the quality, with soft-touch plastics, flourishes of alloy trim and backlit instruments, creating the sort of cabin ambience we're used to in the much more expensive Golf.

Later there'll be an ultimate eco Polo, good for a claimed 85mpg and 87g/km CO₂, one of the lowest levels on the market. Best news of all is that prices of Wolfsburg's polished new supermini will be just £500 more than outgoing models.

With almost preternatural prescience, VW have launched their timely town tiny at exactly the right moment – one of a mountain of reasons why they aren't in anything like the sort of

sherbet dip that so many other manufacturers find themselves wallowing in.

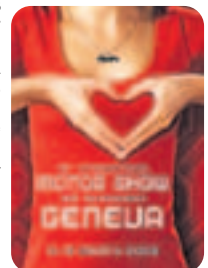
We also like Geneva's battery 911. Porsche specialist Ruf have created the Greenster, the world's first totally electric 911, which has a Siemens 270kw motor, regen brakes and, if you've got a 400v outlet, can be fully charged in one hour. We also approve of the

70s bright green and brushed stainless steel Targa rollover hoop a la 912. Its 700lb/ft torque and 362 horses sound pretty good too.

But overall, the Geneva show seemed light on sense and full of silliness.

Cue the Brabus G V12 S Biturbo – 700 horses from a 6.3-litre V12 with black leather everything, 163mph and an incredible (with those aerodynamics) 4.3-second 60 spurt.

But at £350k, it's madly inappropriate.



Willson

**BRITAIN'S
NO.1 MOTORING
WRITER**



Got a problem?
Email me at
willson@sunday
mirror.co.uk

HELP!
You ask
me



Q MY 17-year-old son recently passed his driving test and I have been trying to get insurance for him on a £650 Fiat Panda. Quotes ranged from £3,500-£11,000. I know about all the statistics and risks, but these prices are laughable. What can we do? - *Pauline Horner, Liverpool*

A IRONICALLY, as soon as you pass your test, insurance goes up, because you're considered less of a risk when you're a learner. If nobody will quote you a reasonable premium, your only option is to

have your son as a named driver, insuring the Fiat in your name. But he can only use the car occasionally.

Q THERE'S a 1995 VW Corrado VR6 for sale in my village. The guy's owned it since new, it's only done 60,000 miles and is in top nick. What should I pay? - *Greg, by email*

A THE Corrado G60 is a seriously underrated ride, and low milers that haven't been butchered are very rare. The trade guides say it's worth buttons, but if it comes at less than four grand, it's a snip. Try him with three.

**Jim's Merc up
for auction at
funny money**



HERE'S a cheap-looking Merc sports. A limited-edition SL500 Mille Miglia, previously owned by Jim Davidson, is up for auction on March 18 with an estimate of just £6,000-£8,000. One of only 50 right-hook examples, it comes with a fully stamped-up service book and has been owned by the comedian for the last five years. More details at www.brightwells.com.

LOTTA POLO

VW STAR OF GENEVA



Mad 'n' mighty Brabus, left, & cool Ruf Greenster, right



**Car sale prices
taking a hike**



USED dealers are having a good March, with a shortage of part-exchanges hiking prices. Even petrol Range Rovers, which were so cheap it was silly, are up. So don't be told your part-exchange isn't worth much - dealers are desperate for stock. Here's some stuff that went through British Car Auctions in Manchester:

- 02** Ford Mondeo Ghia X 101,244mils **£1,050**
- 05** Ford Fusion TDCi 32,877mils **£2,950**
- 06** Ford Ka Collection 20,850mils **£2,500**
- 00X** BMW X5 V8 Sport 80,095mils **£6,400**
- 52** Vauxhall Zafira Club 51,572mils **£1,800**
- 04** Vauxhall Astra CDTi 80,405mils **£1,850**
- 00X** Jeep Grand Cherokee Ltd 71,174mils **£1,800**

Eco Polo is greener than many hybrids

Struggling GM nearly seized up

AUDITORS for General Motors admit there's "substantial doubt" that the company can carry on trading for much longer. This shock revelation could scupper future bail-outs, and spook banks and suppliers. The General says he needs another \$16billion to stop the firm going bust by Easter. All deeply serious, with a million US jobs at stake.



Eco tyres and lightweight panels give 85mpg