

# Quentin



GEMMA Dyllen owns a three-year-old Golf 1.6 FSI. Recently a warning light appeared on the dash, which a specialist diagnosed as a failed ABS pump, costing around £1,000 to fix. VW are refusing to help because Gemma did not use a VW dealer for the repair or previous servicing. What can she do?

they are within their legal rights to refuse help because Gemma didn't use a VW dealer, although morally I think that position is very questionable. For around £350, ECU Testing (www.ecutesting.com) will rebuild and modify the pump, and give a two-year unlimited mileage warranty. Then all she

QUENTIN SAYS: This is a common fault on the Golf Mk V and Touran 2004-2008. VW know this. Sadly,



needs is her independent VW specialist to fit it, for about £150. At least she'll save £500.



The Queen sat here

## NOTHING LIKE THIS DAIM..

FOR the first time one of the Queen's personal cars is to be auctioned in the US.

RM Auctions have been chosen to sell HRH's 1984 Daimler Double-Six long wheelbase, with an estimate of £40,000-£50,000.

Specially built by Jaguar, it underwent more than 2,000 miles of testing before delivery and

over the years transported royal dignitaries, prime ministers and then some.

HRH drove it herself much of the time and must have enjoyed its flashing lights, the hotline to the Royal Protection Squad and the special full-length rear seat cushion for her pet corgis. More at [www.rmauctions.com](http://www.rmauctions.com)

## New from Toyota: a glass that saves you gas.. virtually



HERE'S a smart fuel-saving idea. Toyota's [www.aglassofwater.org](http://www.aglassofwater.org) lets you put a virtual glass of water on your virtual bonnet, to see if you can drive without a spill. The car-maker reckons you can save up to 10 per cent. There's even an iPhone app.

## Dealers may have reasons to feel a bit cheerful..



Big seller... Boxster

TRADERS tell me they're feeling a bit more optimistic this week, so the end of the world might not be as close as they had previously thought.

Several auctions have seen over-book prices and strong attendance, but franchised dealers aren't buying stock that needs more than a couple of hours of reconditioning, leaving that to private buyers.

So if you're prepared to take on a bit of paint, scuffed alloys and a major valet, you should be able to outbid the big boys.

Best-sellers are exotica such as the Golf R32, Porsche Boxster and (surprisingly) AMG Mercs.

I watched one trader pay £500 over book for a rare Golf Plus because, "I'll be the only bloke in Kent with one on offer, so I can virtually charge what I like".

Everybody's hoping that when punters come back from holiday in September they'll have cheered up, and so will business.



Top price... AMG Merc

# £20K TO BA

WHO'D DRIVE IT  
Anybody with a soul

## YOU really do need to know this. Used examples of Jag's latest shape XK are down to 20 grand.

That's not a misprint. £20k buys you the best all-round GT in the world that's almost as good as an Aston Martin DB9.

Aluminium body, four-cam 4.2 V8 and clever adaptive damping mean it's a technical tour de force. Achingly pretty, strong, reliable and delicious to drive, it's also one of Jaguar's finest creations since the E-type of 1961.

And I should know, because I've owned four. I've never had a problem in 100,000 miles, loved every minute and parted from each with enormous sadness.

There are no horror stories about reliability or component failure, two rear seats

for kids and you can get 20mpg. Stick a non-dating number on a 55-plater and it'll look £60k's worth.

Better still, first examples of the slinky convertible are only five grand more. And that really is a current classic that makes a caravan of TR4s, Austin Healeys and MGAs seem viciously expensive in comparison.

Jag have been hitting the top of all the satisfaction surveys,

their dealers are peerless and their image is the brightest it's ever been.

But this pricing aberration won't last long. As buyers realise the outrageous value, current shape XK prices will firm up.

So use this summer's quiet market to grab one of the biggest GT bargains in the world. Trust me - it'll be a decision you'll never regret.



55-plate XK Cabrio is only £25k and almost as good as an Aston Martin

# Willson

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



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

**MB-W140  
is a lavish  
limo for  
nowt**



**HELP!  
You ask  
me**

**Q** I'VE been looking for an S-Class Mercedes for some time, but only have a couple of grand. I have found a 1992 320 in mint condition, but there is no service history, so it seems a bit risky. Any idea where I could find a decent one with history?  
- Edward, by email

**A** THE W140 is one of the best-built S-Classes. The 500 is a bit juicy, but the 320 or 280 are more frugal. There's

a 1996 S280 with 98,000 miles and Merc history up to 87k on eBay, and it's only £1,695. You could also try the Auto Trader website, where there's a choice of about 10 in your price range. You're very wise to insist on a full history. These cars come in two conditions - very good or very bad.

**Q** I HAVE £10k-£11k to spend and cannot decide between a BMW 3-S, a Lexus IS or a Merc

C220. Which of them would you choose? - Patrick Mullan, by email

**A** THIS decision is just about money. The Lexus would depreciate quite quickly and the Merc isn't as desirable as the 3-Series. My money's on the BM, because it's the best driver of the trio, the most economical, the easiest to sell and the slowest to depreciate. No contest, really.

# GAJAG

Get your claws into this big cat bargain



**TECH  
FILE**

**ENGINE** 4196CC V8  
**POWER** 300BHP  
**0-60** 5.9sec  
**MAX:** 155MPH (LIMITED)  
**PRICE:** FROM £20,000  
(COUPE), £25,000  
(CONVERTIBLE)

**Emerald  
500 is a  
little gem**



## SARD ACT TO FOLLOW

**YET** another Fiat 500 Special Edition, and it's another poppet.

The Fiat 500C Sardinia by Romeo Ferraris is limited to just 50 examples and is a

celebration of Italy's Emerald Coast(!).

In two-tone green with sand-coloured fabric roll-back roof, the Sardinia sports an interior in matching

beige leather with cork-effect dashboard.

Sadly, the engine's not been hopped up, but you do get a twin exhaust and 16-inch split rims.



## Are the dreaded Gatsos a life-saver? Cam off it!

**I TOLD** you this was coming. Derby City Council say that speed cameras "do not have a major impact on road safety" and have taken down three of their 20 fixed Gatsos, with the other 17 under review.

Interestingly, the city authorities say that accidents at some camera sites have gone up, not down. Call me cynical, but the real reason for the climb-down could be that government funding for cameras has been slashed.

## ROADSTER'S A ROAD STAR

**OH** no, not another Cobra clone. Yes, but this one claims to be different.

US-based Iconic Motors, who can now use the AC trademark, say their new AC

Roadster is even better than the real thing.

There's a carbon fibre passenger tub, chrome-alloy tube chassis, and (get this) a 6.9-litre V8 thumping out

800 horses. It's got heated and cooled carbon-fibre seats, synthetic sapphire in the dash and no less than 18 patents pending on everything from its gear selector to its fuel cap.

Top speed is 210mph, but only 100 will be made at £390,000 a pop. What's the betting Iconic sell every single one?



**AC clone is  
faster than  
the real thing**