

Your Sunday

HAVE YOUR SAY

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ARE YOUR SAVINGS IN A FIX?

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THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT RICKY THE LIAR..

FILM OF THE WEEK

ALSO DVDS OF THE WEEK

D1 KES

F4 GOT

801 LER

\$4 UCY..

THERE are some amusingly risqué plates coming up in DVLA's next auction on October 7 at Broadway, Worcestershire. D1 KES is reserved at £900, as are F4 GOT, N4 KED and F1 END, while 801 LER (BOILER) is £1,500. More details at: www.dvla-registrations.co.uk

At your service

PAUL Latham, of Newcastle, has a 2002 Audi A8 Diesel that's done 80k miles with a full service history. His garage is saying that the timing chain is worn and needs to be replaced, at a cost of £4,000. Paul chose the A8 because he had heard that they're capable of very high mileages. Is it normal for the chain to stretch like this? **QUENTIN SAYS:** In a word, no. The 3.0-litre diesel lump should be good for

at least 180,000 miles without major problems, if it's properly serviced. So I'm guessing that some time in its life your A8's been clocked.

Ask your Audi dealer for a print-out of all the servicing work done to date. Also check the mileage on HPI's National Mileage Register.

If you find any inconsistencies, go back to the seller (if it's a dealer) and tell him you've been sold a car with an incorrect mileage.



New Pug crossover has enough grip and heave to launch a glider



Peugeot off to a flyer

CONGRATULATIONS to Peugeot for one of the cleverest, freshest and most unusual car launches I've ever been to.

To demonstrate its new Grip Control System, they used a 3008 to launch a glider over a damp and bumpy field.

Normally propelled by a 7.2-litre V8 launcher,

the 500kg glider was hurled into the air by the 3008 without the slightest hint of wheel-spin or strain.

And for the rest of the day Peugeot sent several score of journalists up in gliders at the club in Stratford-upon-Avon without using a single drop of fuel.



Jaguar XE is a real babe

JAG'S LITTLE PUSSY

WELL-PLACED sources at Jaguar have told me that plans are far advanced for their new baby sports car. The Boxster-busting coupe and convertible, likely to be known as the XE, will be all-alloy, front-engined rear-wheel drive, with a super-frugal V6, and cost around £30k. It's known that Ratan Tata (now owner of Jaguar) has pushed the project through aggressively and a production sign-off is imminent, so it could be unveiled as early as 2011.

Those crazy Yanks!

I KEEP telling you the Americans are mad.

Rebates of up to \$4,500 from the Cash for Clunkers scrappage scheme were enough to tempt insane owners of a 1997 Aston Martin

DB7 Volante, 1997 Bentley Continental R and 1999 Mercedes C43 AMG. Unbelievably, 131 Chevy Corvettes also met their maker.

Weep at the wanton waste of it all.

EVANS SENT

ONCE owned by Chris Evans, this 1970 Ferrari Daytona Spyder conversion is up for auction by Coys in October, with an estimate of £185,000 to £225,000. If that sounds dear, it's not. A genuine rhd factory Daytona Spyder (there are only seven) would be an easy £1million.



RANGE

WHY JAG-LAND ROVER

WHO'D DRIVE IT
Those seeking omni-competence

AMID this week's hand-wringing about Jaguar Land Rover closing one of their Midlands factories, it's easy to forget just good their cars have become.

I've spent the last month with a new 2010 Range Rover and reckon it's as well-built, smooth-riding and desirable as a

Bentley. No other 4x4 even comes close. The Range is one of the world's best luxury cars, stiff with the sort of creative engineering that defies the laws of physics and gravity.

New suspension keeps it amazingly flat and controlled on fast corners, top whack is 140mph and, despite having the aerodynamics of the Albert Memorial, the V8 Diesel can return a decent 25mpg. Go



Range is easily one of the best cars on the planet

New adaptive suspension makes this huge lump handle like a kart

Willson

BRITAIN'S NO.1 MOTORING WRITER



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

HELP!
You ask me

Q MY wife wants a Mercedes CLK Convertible, but everything we look at seems to be massively overpriced for our budget of £7,000. Even private sellers are telling us the market is hot. Is it worth waiting until Christmas, in case prices go down? - *Chris, St Albans, Herts*



A MOST definitely. The rally in used prices over the last

six months is showing signs of cooling (see my auction story on this page), so I'd wait until January, when soft-tops soften and the market returns to normal.

Q I HAVE been asked by my father-in-law to contact you for advice about a motoring incident. On July 23 he inadvertently overshot a red traffic light, which he thinks

had a camera on it. He hasn't heard anything, but is still worried about getting a summons. It may sound strange, but he's a senior citizen and such matters are a concern. - *Gary Yeates, by email*

A TELL your father-in-law he needn't worry. The police must send out a NIP (Notice of Intended Prosecution) within 17 days of the alleged offence. As over two months have passed, he's in the clear.

LOVER

STILL BUILD BEST 4x4s

for the 5.0-litre Supercharger and you'll hit 60 in just under six seconds.

There's a touch screen that cleverly splits, so only the passenger can watch telly as you drive, virtual instruments, blind-spot warning lights embedded in the mirrors, and a raft of on-board cameras, including one to stop you kerbing your alloys.

Safe, voluminous, sexy and a technological funfair, this is the finest RR

yet and an absolute triumph of design and innovation.

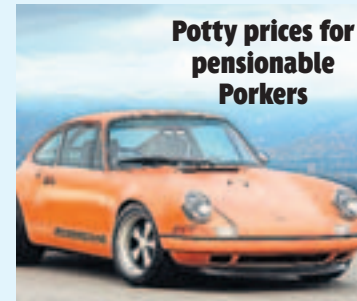
In the current climate it's a miracle on the scale of loaves and fishes that JLR has survived at all. World-class cars like this one (and the new XJ) mean that the company's future is guaranteed.

We should be proud that Jaguars and Land Rovers are still built in Britain.

Interior is like Blenheim Palace and has more toys than Hamley's

TECH FILE

ENGINE 5000cc V8 supercharged
POWER 503bhp
TOP SPEED 140mph
0-60 5.9 seconds
PRICE £79,995
IN A WORD Range-topper



Potty prices for pensionable Porkers

Better than the real thing

OLD 911s are going up in value like space shuttles, with some of the earliest and rarest touching £300k. Which is why American firm Singer Vehicle Design is offering a new old 911.

Using an Eighties donor car, Singer stiffens the chassis, puts on a lightweight backbone, roll cage and carbon fibre body, plus a tuned 3.8-litre flat-six that revs to 8000rpm.

Sixty comes up in 3.9 seconds with a top end of 175. There's even an iPod connector, air con and sat nav. No price yet, but at less than £80k it'll probably work out cheaper than restoring an old one from scratch.

Second-hand prices slipping

IT'S official. The used car market has begun to soften. Some prices at auction this week have slipped back behind bottom book, and traders are reporting much less frenzied bidding than over the summer.

How do you fancy an 02 VW Beetle with 87k for £2,900? Or an 04 Toyota Yaris 1.0VVTi T2 with a tiny 24k for just £2,500? What about an 02 BMW 316i 1.8 SE with 100k for two grand?

Here are some hammer prices from BCA sales:



02 BMW 318i SE Touring 100,000 mls	£3,300
02 Ford Fiesta 1.2 Ghia 64,000 mls	£1,900
03 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Ghia X 79,000 mls	£2,450
02 Lexus IS200 SE 72,000 mls	£3,800
02 Mercedes A170CDi Elegance 83,000 mls	£2,700
04 Mini One 59,000 mls	£4,600
02 Vauxhall Vectra 2.2DTi SRi 95,000 mls	£1,050
02 Volkswagen Beetle 2.0 Auto 87,000 mls	£2,975



Chill out on a bargain spa break

2 for 1 SPA BREAKS

AT OVER 50 VENUES

ARE you in need of some tender loving care? Pamper yourself without breaking the bank and go on a 2 for 1 spa break, available at more than 50 luxurious venues throughout the UK.

This fantastic offer is a chance to lie back and relax to mark National Spa Week (September 19-27). You can enjoy some serious pampering at some of the country's most exclusive spa venues, including the Champneys Resorts, Handpicked Hotels, the new Malvern Spa Hotel, Marriott Hotels, Pennyhill Park and the award-winning Ragdale Hall - plus several more. Our offer's valid at some spas until October 31 (check first).



HOW TO CLAIM

SIMPLY cut out the 2-for-1 spa voucher below. To see a full list of participating venues go online and visit: www.mirror.co.uk/spa and select your preferred spa. Call the spa direct to inquire about any specific terms, conditions, exclusions or limitations.

Make your booking and call direct with the number listed, quoting **NSW5/SundayMirror** before Saturday, October 31, 2009. You can take up the offer as many times as you wish, but you will need an original voucher (no photocopies). See voucher below for full terms and conditions.

2 FOR 1 SPA BREAKS

Offer valid until Saturday, October 31, 2009

Terms & Conditions:

- All of the participating spa venues are separate, independent businesses and may operate different terms and conditions. It is important that you establish any specific conditions at time of booking. Quote NSW5/SundayMirror to qualify for your discount.
- Present this voucher at the spa venue to redeem. By redeeming your Sunday Mirror National Spa Week voucher offer you are deemed to have accepted these terms.