

More shameless speed camera shenanigans ahead

I'M slack-jawed that the Sustainable Development Commission is recommending that we should have SPECS average speed cameras on every motorway to cut down CO2.

It wasn't long ago the Government were advising councils to phase traffic lights on red for longer to slow traffic down and increase petrol consumption (it was true and made the papers), to raise more fuel duty for the Treasury.

Call me old-fashioned, but isn't this a case of shocking hypocrisy and double standards?

Calm down dear, it's only a recall



IF YOU own a Toyota and are worried about the 220,000 vehicle recall in the UK because of sticking throttle pedals, don't panic.

Yaris, Corolla, RAV-4, Aygo, iQ, Verso, Avensis and Auris models built since 2005 are affected.

If your car does need to be modified, you'll be contacted by Toyota or the DVLA in due course.

The good news is that on Friday I spoke to VOSA, the people who look after vehicle safety in the UK, who say they haven't had a single report of a jammed accelerator.

Toyota say the problem is rare, but if you are concerned call their helpline on 0800 1388 744.

Pothole peril for the pedestrians

I SAID on BBC Breakfast the other day that the plague of potholes is getting dangerous. This week a mate of mine was walking across Piccadilly in London, tripped in one of the damned things and broke his leg. He is now sporting a steel rod in his calf. Be careful out there.

Flamboyant 4x4 folly.. for £350k

THIS could be another dire depreciator. German tuner Brabus has fitted a bi-turbo 6.3-litre V8 to a Merc GL, so it bellows out 650 horses and can knock on the door of 190mph. Make sure your bank account is bottomless, though - you'll need £350,000 to own the world's most outrageous off-roader.

Can SUVs get any sillier?



Goes like the Clappers

GO FOR ERIC'S RELIC

THIS week's must-buy-motor is an '89 Maserati 430, first owned by Eric Clapton.

Big miles at 149,000, but comes with a thick file of history, stainless steel exhaust and modified differential. eBay Buy It Now is £4,950, which doesn't sound dear.

You don't need to know this, but I have a pair of Mr Clapton's old Gucci loafers. Don't ask...

Quentin



STUART Harris from Huddersfield has a 2003 MG TF, which is now on its third cylinder head overhaul. Although he loves his car to bits, he can't understand why anyone hasn't come up with a cure for the K-Series engine's constant overheating. His garage says he'll just have to put up with it. Is this right?

QUENTIN says: You're in luck, and so are all drivers of K-Series-powered Freelanders, Rovers and MGs. XPart are selling a repair kit, including a multi-layered head gasket, lower oil rail and high tensile bolts, which is a permanent cure for the malady. At £179.95 it's better value than having to whip your head off every year. See www.xpart.com



LUCKY BLAG

WHO'D DRIVE IT
Thrifty traditionalists

WHILE everybody's talking about the dramatic new Jag XJ, you should be thinking about the old one.

Because after 24 months and 40,000 miles in two examples of the sweet-spinning 2.7 twin-turbo diesel, I can categorically say that Coventry's outgoing big oil-burner is the finest XJ ever.

I've never returned less than 35mpg, and my best ever was 42.

In fact, the speedo once read 144 and, while a paper eight-second 60 time doesn't sound all that brisk, the heave from the twin blowers always made it feel a great deal faster.

One of the smoothest rides outside a Rolls, sharp steering and mighty brakes belie its 41-year-old platform.

Tricked out with darkened windows and black paint-and-

leather combo, plus fat alloys and mesh grille, mine always radiated raffish attitude. Five seats and a monster boot make them hugely useful too.

Not many people know this, but you can buy a 55-plate 2.7 TDVi for as little as thirteen grand.

And in 40,000 miles I never had a single glitch. Absolutely nothing.

Just total, Lexus-like solidity. Don't forget that some of the last cars sloshing around the system are enjoying surprisingly epic discounts. I've even seen tiny-miler 58-plates for as low as £25k at car supermarkets.

Take it from me - Britain's best big car bargain of 2010 is an old-shape diesel XJ.

JAGUAR'S A



2007-on got facelift with big bumpers and wing vents

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Q I HAVE a 2001 BMW X5 I want to sell. It's a 4.4i in black, with full history and 99,000 miles. The first owner was David Beckham - I have the original log book signed by him and various letters about the car, plus a pic with Victoria in it. Where should I advertise and for how much?
Kevin Whittred, email

A A NORMAL X5 of that vintage would be worth

around £7k, but David's motors have always made strong money. With the photo of Victoria, I'd see it at between £12k and £15k. Try Autocar or Pistonheads, making a big thing of the provenance and you might be surprised. You could also slip it into a posh classic auction like Coys or Bonhams.

Q I AM thinking of buying a Nissan Qashqai 1.5dCi

Visia. What do you think of them? Is there anything better?
Alan Ramsay, email

A THE Qashqai is capable and highly regarded, but if it was me, I'd go for a Peugeot 3008 instead. The Pug's a fine crossover with MPV space and a really top drive. Even the basic Active HDi is a blinder, getting 45mpg. I've got one and I think it's the dog's.

HELP!
You ask
me

BLACK CAT ROARING CERTAINTY



Smoother than unrolled silk
- and it's horny with it

**TECH
FILE**

ENGINE: 2722CC TWIN-TURBO DIESEL
POWER: 204BHP
0-60: 7.8sec
MAX: 142MPH
PRICE: £13,000
IN A WORD: BIG BRIT BARGAIN



**Willson
Minor hits
the gas**

STARTING THEM YOUNG

PUT my 11-year-old son Max through Seat's Young Driver course and have never seen him concentrate so hard. Even after an hour threading round cones, he was still ready for more. Obvious, maybe, but everyone learns better when they're

younger - 17-year-olds don't like being taught stuff. Young Driver is already running at Birmingham NEC and opened this week at Wembley and Bluewater, with lessons from just £29. Details at www.youngdriver.eu



Britain's slowest depreciator

Why we like modern Jazz

HONDA Jazz owners have reason to feel smug this week. According to Parker's Guide, the Jazz was the lowest-depreciating car of 2009, shedding just £1379.

It also has the fewest MoT failures rate of any car in the country.

Spare a thought for embattled Maybach 62 owners. In the same 12 months they each lost a trouser-soiling £127,526. There's definitely a moral there.

A SUPER DUPER COUPE

YOU'RE probably not going to believe this, but Carlsson's C25 Super Coupe has sold out even before its much-anticipated launch.

The maniacally-modded and reskinned Mercedes SL Black Series thumps out 743 horses through a

bi-turbo 6.0-litre V12, can hammer to 60 in 3.5 seconds and rock up to a Space Shuttle-chasing 219mph. At £434,000 you'd think some of the limited run of 25 cars would have been slow to shift, but apparently they've all found grateful buyers. Blimey.



**Gone in 60
seconds...**