

March 2022

autoh!

the North East's own motor magazine : issue 16



the all new
HYUNDAI
IONIQ 5
is electric!

p5



RENAULT
Latest SUV
swoops in
p13

VOLKSWAGEN ID.5
A synergy of
SUV & coupé
p11



autoh.co.uk

welcome to **autoOh!**

This is the 16th edition of AutoOh! the North East's own motoring magazine. All of our magazines are delivered to carefully chosen households across NE, SR and DH postcodes and to over 150 businesses. We are the region's leading magazine for anyone who is interested in cars. As usual, there is a full round-up of latest news and products from your local franchise car dealers.

In this edition we're joined by another North East footballing legend, ex Newcastle Utd, Middlesbrough and Real Madrid central defender Jonathan Woodgate. He tells us about his life behind the wheel.

We'll look at some of the latest award winning cars and we drive the one which was named 'Car of the Year'...the Kia EV6.

If you've ordered a new car recently, you're probably still waiting for it. We look at how the shortage of microchips is causing a major problem for car manufacturers. Most cars need hundreds of them. Used car prices have rocketed as a consequence.

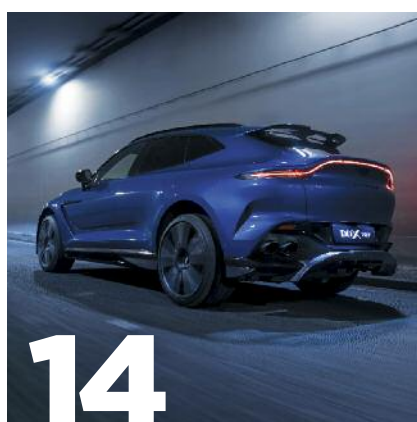
There are road tests of the Hyundai Ioniq 5, Renault Arkana, Honda HR-V, Ford Mustang Mach-E and Volvo V60 Recharge. We take a close look at two plush SUVs, the Aston Martin DBX and

Bentley Bentayga, and we hear from a major car dealer that's aiming to recruit new staff as well as finding out the problems they face in hiring the right people.

We check out the car launches which have been pencilled-in for this year. There's some very tasty machinery arriving at your local car dealers over the next few months.

Oh, and if you'd like to keep in touch with us, you can go onto our website www.autoh.co.uk You'll find latest news, video reviews and you can read previous editions.

Graham Courtney, Editor.



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ADVERTISING:

Ian Tweedy • ian.tweedy57@gmail.com • T: 07909 576 014

EDITORIAL:

Graham Courtney • autohnortheast@gmail.com • T: 07746 013 275

DESIGN:

Paul MacDonald • Stewart Hindmarsh Advertising • T: 0191 564 0300

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Ford Mustang Mach-E Mustang goes to the Machs.

When Ford announced that they were going to produce an electric Mustang, all of the petrol fanatics broke out in a heavy sweat fearing that the thumping 5.0 litre V8 was going to be ditched.

Fear not fellow petrolheads, the original Mustang is alive and kicking.

The electric Mustang is actually an SUV called the Mustang Mach-E.

And it looks fabulous.

As with every electric car, there is one question on everyone's lips. How far will it travel before you need a recharge? The answer is some really good news because it's up with the best, going for an estimated 379 miles before drifting to a halt. Granted, cold weather with heaters, lights, wipers etc in operation, will sap that figure, but 250 miles should be easily reachable in most conditions. If you have access to a rapid charger you'll get a 73 mile boost to get you home in around 10 minutes.

As for performance, go for the full fat Mustang Mach-E and you'll hit 60mph in 3.7 seconds which is impressive bearing in mind that this car weighs two tonnes. You'll frighten the life out of most so-called supercars.

Price? Everything kicks off at £42,530 which, when compared to other all-electric cars with similar range and

performance is extremely good value.

Three versions are available. Rear wheel drive, all-wheel drive which adds a motor to the front wheels as well as the rear, and a GT. You have a choice of two battery packs...75kWh or 98kWh. The bigger one gets the longer range. Power on the entry level Mach-E is 264bhp while the bigger, extended range battery boosts things to 290bhp. The AWD twin motor Mach-E is also available with the 264bhp power level but you can also go for 346bhp with a longer range battery. The GT gets a whopping 480bhp.

Every Mustang Mach-E is well equipped including sat nav, climate control, front and rear parking sensors, rear view camera, and LED headlights. Most things are controlled by an enormous 15.5-inch touchscreen.

Out on the road, the Mustang is comfortable and responsive. If you think it's going to drive like a Ford Mustang... forget it. It drives like what it's supposed



to be...a family SUV that'll be happy on the school run, family holidays and going to the tip.

Just like other electric cars, it is super-easy to drive. Hop in, twist the gear knob to D and away you go. You can have some fun on twisty roads but the Mach-E really excels as a cruiser. You can choose from three different driving modes which adjust stuff like throttle response, brakes and steering. Ford calls them Active, Whisper and Untamed. Why? No idea. Just leave it in Active (normal) and you'll be fine.

Ford is promising more fully electric cars over the next few years. If they're anything like the Mustang Mach-E, we can't wait.



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Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai Tucson 1.6 TGD i SE Connect 5dr 2WD: 42mpg, 150 bhp, 151 CO2 g/km. Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai Bayon 1.0 TGD i 48V MHEV SE Connect 5dr: 53 Mpg, 100 Bhp, 120 CO2 g/km. Fuel Consumption figures for the Hyundai i20 1.0T GD i 48V MHD 120 N Line 5dr: 53 mpg, 119 CO2 g/km, 120 bhp. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

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Iconic IONIQ



It's a tough call but Hyundai is arguably leading the race when it comes to developing electric cars of the future...now.



And one of the best cars available anywhere is this one...the Hyundai Ioniq 5. How good is it?...well good enough to be Auto Express Magazine's current Car Of The Year. It also won gongs for being Best Premium Electric Car, Best Mid-Size Company Car and Best Design. Oh, and for the record, its Hyundai stablemates, the Tucson won the Mid-Size SUV category, while the i20N won in the Hot Hatchback category. Good going huh?

The bottom line is that if you are looking for an all-electric car which has a premium look and feel, is loaded with kit and which can transport you for realistic distances yet be charged in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee, then this could be the car which makes you finally take the plunge to say goodbye to petrol or diesel power.

Don't forget, in 2030, you'll be waving

goodbye in any case because that's when the UK government bans the sale of conventionally powered cars. Hybrids get a stay of execution until 2035.

This is a ground-up electric car and not a rehash of a current model.

Depending on your trim selection, you can choose from three power outputs.

The entry level SE Connect trim comes with a 58kWh battery which produces 168bhp and powers the rear axle. You should cover up to 238 miles before you need to top up.

Move into Premium or top of the range Ultimate trims and you have three power output choices. As well as the 58kWh battery there's also a 73kWh unit which produces 214bhp and drives the rear axle through a single electric motor. You'll now manage up to 280 miles on a single charge. And then at the top of the Ioniq 5 range there's a 301bhp version which uses the same 73kWh battery but now has all-wheel drive.

The Ioniq 5 can cope with a rapid charger which gives you an 80 per cent battery top-up in under 20 minutes.

These are hugely impressive figures.

Out on the road, the Ioniq 5 handles really



well, partly because the chunky battery is slung under the passenger floor giving the car a low centre of gravity. Rides nicely too. No surprise that with 301bhp on offer via AWD the top of the range Ioniq 5 will hit 60mph in 5.2 seconds. However, even the entry level model will still clock 8.5 seconds so it's no slouch.

In terms of kit, the Ioniq 5 is fully equipped even in entry level SE Connect trim. Sat nav, climate control, parking sensors, LED lights, tinted glass, powered windows and exterior mirrors, rear view camera, and of course a cracking 5-year unlimited mileage warranty all come as standard. The battery is covered for 8 years or 100,000 miles.

Throw in the fact that the interior has a seriously premium feel, looks great with twin digital screens and is extremely comfortable...and that the exterior is ultra-modern yet not too shouty ...and you can see why the Hyundai Ioniq 5 has already been a massive success.

Visit Bristol Street Motors Hyundai for an informal, no obligation chat and see what all the fuss is about. It's your electric motoring future, here today.



For more information
Visit website

1

OUR TOP TEN 2022 CAR LAUNCHES

2022 is shaping up to be a terrific year for new car launches. Here's our pick of the bunch.

1 Ferrari Daytona SP3

In 1967 Ferrari came 1st 2nd and 3rd at the Daytona 24 Hours. This car is a nod to that race. It's also the first mid-engined Ferrari since we waved goodbye to LaFerrari in 2018. Power comes from a 6.5 litre V12 which packs 829bhp. This gives you a 0-60 time of 2.85 seconds and a dizzying top speed of. The interior is a work of art. To keep weight to a minimum the two seats are actually part of the bodywork. Ferrari will build 599 examples. Prices are around £1.7m.

2 Gordon Murray Automotive T.33

Gordon Murray is a proper old school designer in many respects. Yes the T.33 is super sleek and futuristic but when it comes to everything else it's all about weight and power. In other words, as little weight as possible and a thumping great load of power. Exclusive too...only 100 will be made. The engine is a V12 617bhp 3.9 litre Cosworth unit which revs to 11,100rpm. The body is carbonfibre allowing the entire car to weigh roughly the same as a VW Polo. Price around £1.35m before taxes.

2



3

3 Land Rover Range Rover

The 5th generation of this luxury SUV lands in May. Petrol and diesel engines will power the first batch before a plug-in PHEV arrives near the end of the year. All are 6-cylinder units apart from the top of the range BMW sourced 4.4 litre V8 which hurls this mammoth car to 60mph in 4.6 seconds. 4-wheel steering is standard across the range. There's a 7-seat option too. The rear is very distinctive with lights that only appear when you need them. Prices start at £94,000 or £120,000 if you go for the long wheelbase model.

4 McLaren Artura

This is a ground-up brand new car. And it's a plug-in hybrid. There's 577bhp from the 3.0 litre twin turbo V6 petrol engine and 94bhp from the electric motor. This gives you a 0-60 time of 3.0 seconds, 0-125mph in 8.3 seconds and a top speed of 205mph. You can travel 20 miles on electric juice only. McLaren want this to be a useable car...not just for weekend blasts. Dial 'comfort' into the suspension and engine mode and you should have an everyday supercar. Price £182,500.



5

5 Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS

If you reckon that your standard Cayman isn't quite up to sporting standard, here's the answer. The GT4 RS follows a tried and tested formula...increase the power and reduce the weight. Power from the 4.0 litre 6-cylinder petrol engine rises to 493bhp. 0-60 time improves to 3.4 seconds and top speed climbs to 196mph. Body parts have been replaced with carbonfibre and the insulation has been reduced. It'll be fun on the road or the track. Price is £110,000.

6 Ferrari 296 GTB

This is Ferrari's answer to the McLaren Artura. It's a plug-in hybrid. The engine is a 6-cylinder unit which is something we haven't seen for about 50 years. It's 2.9 litres, twin turbo, 817bhp when you add in the electric motor, 0-60 in 2.9 seconds, 7.3 seconds to 125mph, top speed 205mph. If you want to be über economical you can travel for 15 miles on electric power alone. The order book is open; deliveries are due after summer. Price in the region of £240,000.



4



6



8



7

7 Hispano Suiza Carmen

How does 991bhp sound...or 1085bhp if you go for the full fat version? That what you get with this car...and it's 100% electric. The firm was founded in Barcelona in 1904 by Damián Mateu, and it's still in family run by his great-grandson. 0-60mph in 2.6 seconds; top speed 180mph. Power goes to the rear axle with two electric motors for each wheel. The firm reckons on a range of about 250 miles. You clamber in via butterfly door. Only 19 examples will be built. Prospective owners can choose from over 1000 options. There's no rush because each car takes seven months to build. Price is £1.3m.

8 Mercedes AMG SL

The SL is back with a bang. After being dubbed as a bit of a footballers' wives car, Mercedes have let their sporting arm AMG sort this 7th generation. It's gone back to being a proper driver's car while still being the ultimate cruiser. It's also gone back to being a 2+2 soft-top. To start with you can choose from the SL 55 or SL 63 which both use a 4.0 litre V8 petrol engine and a 9-speed auto 'box. The 55 churns out 469bhp while the 63 ups the game to 577bhp and can hit 60mph in 3.6 seconds. Price around £140,000 for the SL 63

9 Lotus Emira

Feast your eyes on this. It's the last-ever petrol engine powered Lotus. From then on, it's electric all the way. The Emira gets a 3.5 litre supercharged V6 sourced from Toyota to start with (First Edition) and then later in the year a 2.0 litre Mercedes engine joins the party. The V6 engine which powers the car to 60 mph in a

shade over 4.0 seconds and goes on to 180mph, sits just behind the cabin and drives the rear wheels. This car is the first product since Geely took over the company. Geely did great things for Volvo...they aim to do the same with Lotus. Price for the First Edition from £79,995

10 Hyundai Ioniq 6

And finally...we're excited by an upcoming Hyundai. This is a concept photo (called Prophecy) but it has serious styling cues to the upcoming Hyundai Ioniq 6 which is an all-electric saloon based on the Ioniq 5 and is aimed fair and square at the Tesla Model 3. Hyundai (and sister firm Kia) are leading the electric race. All-wheel drive, 300bhp and over 300 miles range. 0-60mph in around 5.1 seconds should keep you interested. An 80% recharge takes under 20 minutes. With a starting price in the region of £45,000 this could be the car which finally encourages you to make the switch.



10



9

My life in cars: Jonathan Woodgate

Jonathan Woodgate is now carving a career in football management and media punditry after being recognised as one of England's best central defenders.

Here he takes us through some of his motoring memories. Some good; some bad.

Jonathan grew up on Teesside and began his footballing career in the youth system at Middlesbrough FC. In 1996 at the age of 16, he moved to Leeds Utd where he helped the Elland Road club win the FA Youth Cup in 1997. The following year he made his senior debut and went on to make over a hundred appearances for the club and rapidly became a fan favourite.

During his time at Leeds he also won his first England cap, playing at Under 16 level. He would go on to play at U18, U21 and also in the senior England team where he made his debut in 1999 playing against Bulgaria. Sadly a series of injuries plagued Jonathan's international career.

2003 saw him move to Newcastle Utd where once again the fans took to him.

2004 saw Jonathan move to the Spanish giants Real Madrid before returning on loan in 2006 to play for his home town



club, Middlesbrough. There then followed three seasons with Tottenham Hotspur followed by a move to Stoke and then finally back to Middlesbrough where, in 2016, he called it a day as a player after racking-up almost 400 games.

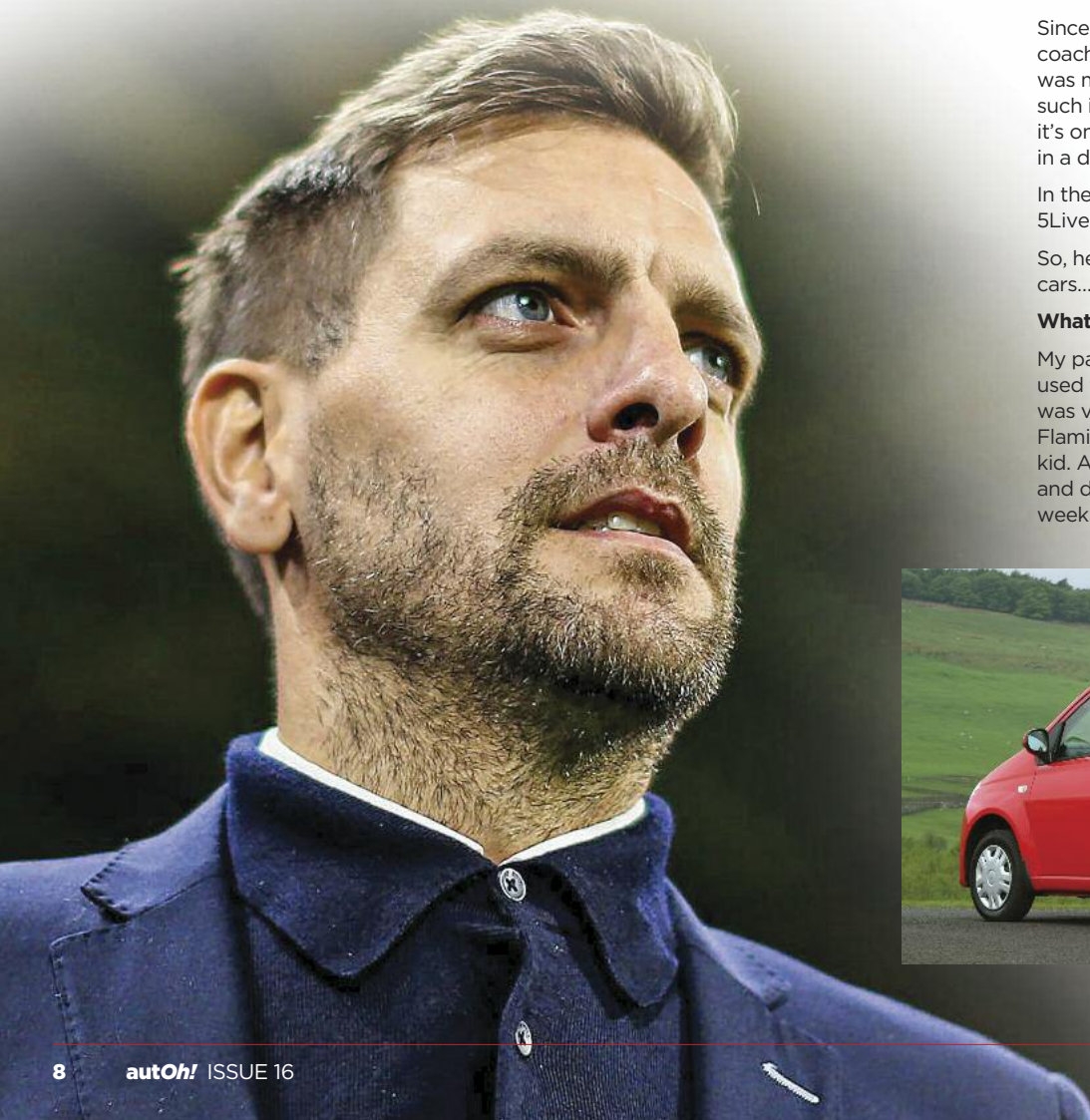
Since then he's been involved in coaching, scouting and management. He was most recently at Bournemouth and, such is his reputation within football, that it's only a matter of time before he's back in a dugout somewhere.

In the meantime he's working with BBC 5Live and with Match of the Day 2.

So, here's Jonathan Woodgate's life in cars.....

What is the first car you can remember?

My parents had a Daihatsu Charade. They used to take me everywhere in it and it was very reliable. I used to love trips to Flamingo Land and Lightwater Valley as a kid. Also my father used to take me up and down to Leeds Utd three times a week when I starting out as a footballer.





What was the first car you owned?

My first car was a second-hand green Ford Escort Convertible with a black roof. Your first car is always so special...you never forget it.

What did you drive when you were at Newcastle Utd and Middlesbrough?

When I was at Newcastle I drove a black Cadillac Escalade with spinner alloys. That car was a big mistake...it was also left hand drive. I soon got rid of it.

At Middlesbrough I bought a beautiful Ferrari 599 GTB. It was gun metal grey with red leather. It was so quick. I got rid of that after 4 months as I was getting too much back pain. I then bought a Mercedes S65. What a fantastic car that was...it was like a speedboat... so fast but so comfortable.

What sort of car did you have at Real Madrid and how did you find driving in Spain?

In Spain, Real Madrid were sponsored by Audi at the time so we all had to drive Audis. Every player was given a club car. I had an Audi A6 which was nice. At some clubs I know that players are often given a car from a sponsor but then leave it at home and arrive in their own preferred car. At Real Madrid that wasn't advisable for the simple reason that if you weren't driving the club car, you didn't get into the car park at the ground.

Did you ever get a sponsored car?

No only a club car.

Smart car or a mobile skip?

Smart car. I like to keep it clean...inside and out.

Any motoring embarrassments?

Yes. While in Spain I once parked outside a garage but didn't realise that it was in use. It was covered in graffiti so I just thought I could park there. I didn't realise that it was actually the garage which belonged to a block of flats and I'd stopped people getting in or out for over two hours. I remember walking back to my car thinking 'what are all those people doing next to my car'. Then I realised they were kicking it and trying to smash the windows. They were going crazy. I had to ring my team-mate, Javi Garcia, who helped by speaking to the police etc to get me out of the situation. Oops.

What's your favourite road trip? Did you get a chance to explore Spain?

I didn't really get a chance to explore Spain but when I go to Ibiza every summer I hire a Jeep and go exploring with the kids to different parts of the island. It's such an amazing place.



Steady Eddy or a bit of a speedster?

I'm a bit of both really but only in the right areas.

Worst (if any) accident you have been involved in?

Touch wood I have never been involved in any accidents myself.

What have been your favourite cars?

The Mercedes S65 was my best by far.

Worst Car you've had?

Land Rover Discovery. It was nightmare... so unreliable.

And finally....your dream car?

I don't really have a dream car as I have had a lot of cars but when I was young I always wanted to drive a big Mercedes.



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Official fuel consumption figures for the Volkswagen model range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 0.0 (0.0) - 313.9 (0.9). Combined CO2 emissions 266 - 0 g/km. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. Data correct at 12/21. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please consult your retailer for further information.

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Volkswagen ID.5 and Taigo

break cover

in the UK

Keeping tabs on the flow of new models from Volkswagen can be a tricky one. So look no further to find out more about the latest two.

The Volkswagen ID.5 and Taigo, both show how the #1 UK new car automotive brand, Volkswagen is moving with the times.

The ID.5 is Volkswagen's first all-electric coupé following on from the ID.3 family hatchback and ID.4 SUV. Three versions are available...ID.5 Pro, ID.5 Pro Performance and ID.5 GTX.

In terms of power, the ID.5 Pro gets 172bhp; the Pro Performance gets 201bhp. The lower power model gets you to 60mph in 10.4 seconds while the more powerful version covers the same sprint in 8.4 seconds. As with all electric cars, the take-off from standstill is startling. You have no gears...well...just forward and reverse...and there's 100 per cent power available instantly.



The GTX ups the power to 286bhp. 60mph comes up in a hot-hatch 6.3 seconds. An additional motor drives the front wheels to give you all-wheel drive.

Another key detail with every electric car is range. The good news is that the ID.5 Pro and Pro Performance, in ideal conditions, will manage around 310 miles while the GTX dips slightly to 296 miles. You can reach an 80 per cent charge using the sort of charger you find in service stations or park and ride facilities, in about 30 minutes. A 7 minute charge adds around 60 miles.

GTX gets its own level of trim while Pro and Pro Performance come in either Tech or Max trims. All get sat nav, heated front seats, rear view camera, climate control and a panoramic glass sunroof.

Prices starts at £50,550. You'll pay £58,640 for the GTX.

If you want a similar car in terms of size and appearance but want to stick with conventional petrol power, then how about this?



It's the Volkswagen Taigo (pronounced tie-go) which is best described as a compact crossover coupé-SUV that gives buyers who were thinking of something along the lines of the Volkswagen T-Cross and T-Roc another styling choice to go for. All three cars share similar oily bits and platform so really it comes down to which one appeals to your preference in terms of how it looks.

Two engines are on offer, 1.0 and 1.5 litre... both petrol...offering 94bhp and 108bhp for the 1.0 litre unit and 148bhp for the 1.5. You can opt for either manual or auto 'boxes in the more powerful 1.0 litre engine. Auto only for the 1.5. You get a choice of three trims including the always ultra-stylish R-Line. The 1.0 litre models will manage just over 50mpg while the 1.5 is just under 50mpg.

We've driven the 1.5 R-Line model which felt really lively, extremely comfortable and the ride is one of the best in class. Roomy too. 0-60 comes up in 8.3 seconds; top speed 132mph.

As for kit, the mid-range Style model for example is fully loaded and comes with sat nav, climate control, sports seats in the front, LED headlights and extremely handsome alloy wheels.

It's a welcome addition to the increasing Volkswagen SUV range.

Prices for the Taigo start at £22,377.76... and it, along with the ID.5, is available now at your local Lookers Volkswagen dealership.

For more information
Visit website



Kia is the **electric bright spark**

When the UK government announced that electric cars HAD to be your only new car option after January 1st 2030 (hybrids can carry on until 2035), some car manufacturers must have gone into full panic mode.

Thankfully the manufacturers have responded impressively and one of the best is Kia.

And they can now claim to be the best officially because one of their electric cars has received a major honour.

The winner of the What Car? magazine 2022 Car of the Year is the Kia EV6.

What Car? said it... "stood out for setting new benchmarks for electric cars, offering an official range of 328 miles, and managing 224 miles on a charge when What Car?'s testers ran it in near worst-case low temperature conditions. It is also capable of super-fast, 800V charging. In addition, the EV6 earned praise from the judges for being hugely spacious, very refined even by electric car standards and for being sold with the reassurance of a standard-setting 7-year warranty." We reckon it also looks great too.

There's a full list of the other What Car? 2022 winners elsewhere in this edition of AutOh!

We've driven the EV6 and it's brilliant. It shows the importance of manufacturers developing their electric cars from

ground-up. Everything about this Kia EV6 is brand new.

And it shows.

The EV6 is a crossover, blending SUV with family holdall. It also has a seriously premium feel to it. Kia wants to move upmarket...and it's working.

All models get the same battery (77.4kWh) but with differing power outputs. You can choose from rear wheel or all-wheel drive. A GT AWD version is on the way. The rear wheel drive model has 225bhp to play with while the AWD model ups the game to 321bhp.

That converts to a 0-60mph time of 7.3 seconds for the rear wheel drive version and 5.2 seconds for the AWD.

Both can charge their battery up to 80 per cent in 18 minutes if you can find a rapid charger. Range in the rear wheel drive model is an excellent 328 miles. The AWD manages up to 314 miles. Impressive figures.

Three levels of trim are available...Air, GT-Line and GT-Line S. Prices start at £40,945 and you get a terrific level of standard kit with even the entry level Air



trim coming with sat nav, rear parking sensors, reversing camera, LED headlights, leather upholstery, heated front seats, a pair of curved 12.3-inch displays and a stack of safety equipment. To be honest, unless you want the extra power and additional traction of the AWD model, we'd stick with the rear wheel drive Air model.

It's a wonderful car. Comfortable, roomy and with excellent real-world range. Fun to drive too.

What's not to love?





Latest SUV from Renault **Swoops** in

Things are either getting better...or more complicated...when it comes to choosing cars. It's all a matter of opinion.

Sometimes you really can have too much choice. On the other hand, it's nice to be faced with a bit of variety.

And the latest category of cars to appear on the motoring scene is the coupé SUV.

Renault cars have always had a dash of style about them so it's no surprise that they've gone down this route...so...please welcome the Renault Arkana.

What the Arkana does is give buyers another option when they saunter into a Renault dealership. If you want a compact SUV, go for the Captur. Need something a bit bigger...then the Kadjar will fit the bill. However, if you think that SUVs are all starting to look very similar, then you'll be attracted to the swoopy lines of the Renault Arkana.

The Arkana takes a lot of its underpinnings from the Renault Captur, which is no bad thing because that's a

well-rounded car. However, the distinctive styling means that the Arkana definitely stands out from the crowd.

There are two engines to choose from...a 1.3 litre petrol engine with mild hybrid assistance which develops 138bhp or a full hybrid which has a 1.6 litre petrol engine mated to an electric motor. Add them together and your power output rises to 143bhp. Both engines come with an automatic gearbox as standard. We'd go for the latter engine because it makes progress seem a little less flustered and returns an estimated 58.9mpg compared to the 1.3 litre's 48.7mpg. As for the 0-60mph times, there not much in it...the 1.3 manages 9.8 seconds while the 1.6 clocks 10.8.

You have three levels of trim available... Iconic, S Edition and R.S. Line. The Iconic will be fine for most people because included as standard are goodies like a



rear view camera, front and rear parking sensors, 7-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, climate control, automatic headlights and wipers, tinted windows and really smart alloy wheels.

Prices for the Iconic with the 1.3 litre engine start at £26,290 while the 1.6 litre motor only costs a further £1300.

We'd also dig a bit deeper and shell out a couple of extra grand for S level trim because you'll then get a seriously smart 9.3-inch touchscreen which also incorporates satellite navigation. Cruise control and chunkier wheels are also added. R.S. trim gives you leather upholstery, heated front seats and some neat exterior styling touches. A five year warranty and loads of safety kit come as standard across the range.

Out on the road, the Arkana has a fairly firm ride which makes it a bit bumpy at town speeds, but once you get a move on everything settles nicely. It'll thrive on long journeys fully loaded with holiday clobber...which of course is what an SUV is designed for.

If you are in the market for a family-sized SUV that offers a touch of exterior flair, have a good look at the Renault Arkana.



DBX goes for the MAX

Aston Martin doesn't tend to do things by halves. Take this latest DBX for example, the DBX707. They reckon this is the fastest, most powerful and best handling DBX so far.

Bearing in mind that the 'standard' DBX is rapid and handles really well means this 707 model should be stunning to drive.

The 707 part of the name refers to the amount of PS (PS tends to be used in those countries who use metric horsepower...we still largely use bhp which is mechanical horsepower) which the 4.0 litre twin turbo V8 engine develops...that converts to 697bhp.

The car comes with launch capability.

This allows you to build the revs...hold the car on the brakes...and then go for it. 0-60 comes up in 3.3 seconds which will beat just about anything out there. Top speed is 193mph...and don't forget that this isn't some sort of lightweight supercar. This is in an SUV which weighs over two tonnes. The clever all-wheel drive system can shift power from axle to axle which means under hard acceleration, every ounce of torque goes to the rear wheels.



Handling is kept in check by air suspension. Power goes via a 9-speed auto box. The carbon ceramic brake discs are truly enormous...think of dinner plate size.

And no surprise that there's a plethora of new wings, brake ducts and air intakes, along with bigger exhaust pipes, new grille and deeper sills. It looks fantastic. The interior is plush to say the least.

Prices start at £189,000.



For more information
Visit website



DBX 707

Introducing the Aston Martin DBX707.
The world's most powerful luxury SUV.

Find out more at www.newcastleastonmartin.co.uk


ASTON MARTIN
NEWCASTLE



We've got a massive craving for chips.

If you've ordered a new car within the past year, there's a really good chance that you've had an email or phone call from your supplier to say there's a bit of a problem.

Okay, you may have been lucky and got one that's already in stock or is one that the dealer had pre-ordered, but if you've rolled-up at your friendly local dealer and ordered a car to your own specification in a particular colour and a certain trim and perhaps with a few extras like satellite navigation and leather seating, then you may be one of the thousands of car buyers who've been left frustrated.

Flick onto just about any of the car manufacturer websites and you'll get a clue. Invariably at the moment, a message will pop up on the screen. It'll be along the lines of...

"Due to a worldwide shortage of semiconductors, we are experiencing supply problems which may lead to longer delivery times that we would expect."

Yes, despite being the size of a thumbnail, a shortage of these little microchips or semiconductors is causing major problems for car manufacturers.

Do you know how many semiconductors are in your humble runabout? Well it's almost certain to have over 100 but if you have a top of the range car with loads of electric gadgets, then you can easily hit four figures. A handful have over 3000 semiconductors.

Some manufacturers are getting around this by returning to analogue dials rather than digital ones. Multi-adjustable powered seats are being substituted by manual ones.

But the problem is that so much of the modern car now relies on computers and sensors that they can't be replaced by something else. ABS brakes, power steering, dozens of safety systems, parking sensors, reversing camera, airbags etc etc...are all reliant on chips.

In other words, demand for microchips from the car industry is high...and will only get higher.

And then COVID-19 struck.

Car firms were forced to close their assembly lines...but so did the microchip manufacturing firms. In the meantime, because we were all working from home, demand for computers, TVs, webcams and mobile phones soared. Online sales of games consoles and electronic fitness equipment went through the roof. It's surprising to learn that car manufacturing actually only uses a small proportion of the world microchip production. Most chips go to the electronics industry.

And the vast majority of semiconductors are manufactured in the Far East which has been affected in different ways and at different times to here in the UK. There was also a drought in Taiwan...bad news because chip production needs a lot of water.

All of which has meant that some car manufacturers stopped their assembly lines totally for a while. MINI had a three week shutdown of their Oxford plant. Some like the Nissan plant in Sunderland stopped night shifts. Some went to a 4-day week. Car production across the

world, not just here in the UK, has dropped. Needless to say that the manufacturers who produce the most cars have been affected most of all. Renault reckon they've dropped production by at least half a million units. Stellantis, who own Fiat, Vauxhall, Citroen, Peugeot, Jeep and Alfa Romeo, reckon the chip shortage saw them cut quarterly production by almost 600,000 vehicles.

So, what is the latest situation?

Thankfully, COVID-19 appears to be easing. Some car manufacturers are still on reduced output. Some are targeting just the most popular models in their range. All of them will be looking into the future and trying to secure a more reliable long term supply of chips. However, all of this is going to take time. October 2021 for example saw the lowest production of new cars since 1956. There's a lot of catching-up to do.

Manufacturers will also need to streamline their chip supply. Every modern car will use chips of varying sizes and types with many coming from different manufacturers. If one line of chip supply is interrupted, then so will the production of the car. Some are also bringing chip production in-house.

But it's impossible to avoid a delay so you can expect shortages to continue well into this year. Consequently, prices of used cars have risen because people need to replace their vehicles for the simple reason that they wear out.

Our advice is to be patient. Try to keep the mileage down on your current car. Keep it well maintained. Just like with COVID-19, the microchip shortage and the new car shortage will eventually come to an end.

Allegedly!

Peugeot is back in Sunderland

For the first time in over five years, the Peugeot brand is back in Sunderland. The timing couldn't be better because Peugeot is launching new models on a regular basis. As we've seen in previous editions of AutOh! magazine, there are some fantastic cars to choose from in the Peugeot range.

Many of you will be familiar with the huge Bristol Street Motors Vauxhall dealership on Hylton Riverside in Sunderland...well... following a £250,000 investment, it has been converted to also allow Peugeot to move in. It's a logical move to make because both Vauxhall and Peugeot have the same parent company called Stellantis.

"We're absolutely delighted to bring Peugeot back into Sunderland," said general manager Jass Singh. "For too long it's meant that current Peugeot owners or anyone wanting to purchase a new Peugeot have had to travel away from Wearside. Car owners and buyers prefer to have a dealership in their locality so they can build a relationship with the sales and servicing team. That's what we're now providing here in Sunderland. We're also adding five new members to the Peugeot team to cope with demand."

It doesn't matter whether you want petrol, diesel, electric or hybrid power...you'll find

one in the Peugeot range. You'll also find a terrific choice of city cars, hatchbacks, estates, SUVs and 7-seaters. There is also a wide range of Peugeot vans.

The electric range of Peugeot cars and vans are ideal if you are in business. They make economical sense. They are also worth serious investigation by private buyers. You need to do your sums but for many people a single charge on a Sunday night will see you manage an entire week of commuting. A full charge will cost you around £9 at current prices. How does that compare with a tank of fuel?

Oh, and if you saunter into the new Bristol Street Peugeot dealership you'll be surrounded by winners. The Peugeot e-208 was recently given a cherished 'Best Buy' recommendation by Which? magazine. The Peugeot e-Partner van was named What Van? Magazine's Electric Van of the Year. The latest Peugeot 308 is a European Car of the Year finalist and was also named Best Urban Car by the Women's World Car of the Year panel. The popular Peugeot e-208 has been named (for the 3rd year running) as 'Small EV Car of the Year' at the 2022 Company Car & Van Awards while both the Peugeot 208 and 5008 collected awards at the Company Car Today ceremony. The 208 won 'Supermini of the Year' while the 5008 won the 'SUV of the Year'.

An impressive list.

As for the latest models, the new 5-door Peugeot 308 family hatchback and 308



SW estate are stunning. They're well equipped, brilliant to drive, comfortable and ultra-stylish.

We also love the Peugeot 208. It's always been a hugely popular car and now, with electric power in e-208 guise, it appeals to even more people. It could be the car which makes you finally take the plunge and move away from diesel and petrol.

So, why not go and find out what's offer on offer with Peugeot in Sunderland. Renew a few old friendships. You'll be amazed, even in the space of the five years that Peugeot hasn't been available in Sunderland, at how much the Peugeot range has moved on.

Go and have a chat with Jass and his team and they'll point you in the right direction. Test drives are available and, because Bristol Street Motors is one of the UK's biggest motor dealers as part of the Vertu Group, they have terrific buying power which means you'll get the best possible deals.

Bristol Street Motors and Peugeot in Sunderland. The Peugeot future starts here.

Call 0191 357 4908 or book an appointment via the Bristol Street Motors website www.bristolstreet.co.uk



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CALLING ALL PEUGEOT DRIVERS. WE'RE OFFERING A FREE WELCOME VEHICLE SAFETY CHECK

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- **DISCOVER THE LATEST MODELS, INCLUDING THE AWARD-WINNING PEUGEOT 3008**
- **HAVE YOUR VEHICLE CHECKED BY OUR PEUGEOT APPROVED TECHNICIANS**

Fuel Consumption figures for the Peugeot 3008. MPG (l/100km): Combined 39.7- 48.0. CO2 emissions: 140 g/km. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

Bristol Street Motors Peugeot Sunderland is a trading name of Vertu Motors (VMC) Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Company registration number 00694464). VAT Registration number 902737238. Registered office: Vertu House, Fifth Avenue Business Park, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0XA.

BRISTOL STREET MOTORS SUNDERLAND
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CALL 0330 017 1104 | bristolstreet.co.uk/peugeot





DS AUTOMOBILES

DS 4 Bastille +Puretech

130 Automatic

£265.⁶⁶
35 MONTHLY
PAYMENTS

3 years 60,000
mile warranty



Contract Hire Example:
DS 4 Bastille +Puretech 130 Automatic

ADVANCE PAYMENT	35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	FINANCE PER MONTH	SERVICES PER MONTH	TOTAL PER MONTH	P11D	CO2
£1,593. ⁹⁶	£265. ⁶⁶	£249. ⁶⁸	£15. ⁷⁷	£265. ⁶⁶	£26,075	Group E

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charge 9 pence per mile

DS 9 Performance Line + E Tense

Plug In Hybrid Saloon

£509.¹⁶
47 MONTHLY
PAYMENTS

3 years 60,000
mile warranty



Contract Hire Example:
DS 9 Performance Line + E Tense Plug In Hybrid Saloon

ADVANCE PAYMENT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	FINANCE PER MONTH	SERVICES PER MONTH	TOTAL PER MONTH	P11D	CO2
£3,054. ⁹⁶	£509. ¹⁶	£473. ⁵²	£35. ⁶⁴	£509. ¹⁶	£46,045	Group A

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charge 9 pence per mile

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Wingrove Silverlink
Citroën, DS & Peugeot
Kittiwake Close
Silverlink Park
Wallsend
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MOTOR GROUP

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New 208

1.2 Active Premium from

£197.⁴⁷ | **6.5%**
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS | REPRESENTATIVE APR

with 3 years
breakdown cover
and warranty on
Peugeot passport



Representative Finance Example:
Peugeot 208 1.2 Active Premium

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	PEUGEOT DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£4,140⁸⁵	£197.⁸⁰	£650	£18,565	£13,774¹⁵	£7,149	£21,236⁴⁵	47months	6.5%	6.5%

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charge 5.4 pence per mile.

New 2008 SUV

Active Premium 1.2L
Puretech 100 S&S

£209 | **6.5%**
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS | REPRESENTATIVE APR

with 3 years
breakdown cover
and warranty on
Peugeot passport



Representative Finance Example: Peugeot 208 1.2 Active Premium

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£5,577⁴⁵	£209	£22,050	£16,592⁵⁴	£10,176	£25,576⁴⁶	48months	6.5%	6.5%

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charge 7.8 pence.

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New Citroën C3 Aircross

SUV Puretech 110 S&S 6 speed

£259 | **8.9%**
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS | REPRESENTATIVE APR

with 3 years
breakdown cover

Representative Finance Example PCP:
Citroën C3 Aircross SUV Puretech 110 S&S 6 speed

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	CASH PRICE	TOTAL CREDIT CHARGE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£1,999	£259	£17,942 ⁵⁰	£4,149 ⁵⁰	£7,920	£22,092	47months	8.9%	8.9%

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charge 7.8 pence per mile.



Citroën C3 Sense Purtech

£199 | **5.9%**
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS | REPRESENTATIVE APR

3 years 60,000
mile warranty

Representative Finance Example PCP:
Citroën C3 Sense Purtech

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	CASH PRICE	TOTAL CREDIT CHARGE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£1,999	£199	£15,642	£2,358	£6,648	£18,000	47months	5.9%	5.9%

Based on 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage 5.4 pence per mile.



For more information
Visit website

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WINGROVE VANS MEAN BUSINESS

and they have vans available...now

Peugeot and Citroen have always been two of the best-selling Commercial Vehicle companies. With their range of standard small, medium and large vans as well a vast range of conversions such as Tipper, Lutons and Recovery Trucks they really do offer something for everyone in terms of load carrying capacity (weight and size) as well as driver comfort.

Crucially for businesses, they have also proved to be reliable and extremely cost-effective.

And now they are available with electric power.

Okay, petrol and diesel options are available but vans are actually a perfect example of why electric power can be a terrific alternative because many vans spend their lives doing stop-start journeys and, over the course of a day, actually don't clock-up too many total miles.

In other words, if you have a delivery company which mainly operates in your own local area or you are a tradesperson who travels locally during the course of a day, then electric rechargeable power makes a lot of sense and with the onset of more inner-city congestion zones Electric Vehicles make financial sense as well.

Depending on which size battery you go for and which model of van best suits your needs, you can get up to around 170 miles on a fully charged battery. In terms of charging the battery, most Peugeot

and Citroen vans can be given an 80 per cent top-up in 30 minutes if you use the sort of charger you'll find in service stations.

They're also great to drive, especially in towns; you have no gears and because electric motors develop 100% of their power instantly, the vans are surprisingly nippy.

However, and this is important, do not forget that in 2030, assuming all goes to plan for the government, you will no longer be able to buy a new van (or car) with a petrol or diesel engine. They'll be banned. Electric power will be your only option. So, if you were thinking of making the switch, now could be a good time to start doing your sums.

All Peugeot vans...Partner, Expert and Boxer...and Citroen vans...Berlingo, Dispatch and Relay... are available with 100 per cent electric power.

And they're available now at Wingrove Motor Group.



You may have seen stories about car production being affected by the shortage of semiconductors or microchips. Vans have been affected too. But, size matters in the van world...and when it comes to size of company and reputation within the business, Wingrove Motor Group is a premier player. They have the sort of influence with the manufacturers that other dealers can only dream about. Consequently, while other dealers are struggling to supply vans, Wingrove have vans available and with very short delivery times.

Result.

The best idea is to pop into your local Wingrove Motor Group dealership and have a chat with the sales team and they'll point you in the right direction as to which Peugeot or Citroen van is best for you. You'll find Wingrove Motor Group dealerships at the Silverlink in Wallsend and on the West Road in Newcastle.

Or of course you can contact them and find further details on their website... www.wingrovetorgroup.co.uk

If you need a van that means business, go to Wingrove Motor Group.



For more information
Visit website





SsangYong Musso

This is a serious weightlifter?

SsangYong has built a reputation for being a no-nonsense car manufacturer who build cars that can take the rough and tumble of life yet remain remarkably civilised.

The South Korean manufacturer built its reputation by providing a lot of car for your money. They were a tad agricultural but early buyers stuck with the brand because the vehicles proved to be tough, reliable and, shock, decent to drive and live with.

That's still the case but SsangYong has moved with the times and their vehicles are now very much 21st Century.

And don't forget they come with a confidence boosting 7-year / 150,000 mile warranty.

One of the latest to arrive is the SsangYong Musso pick-up truck. It racks-up awards like confetti. Over the last 12 months it's collected awards for 4x4 Magazine's Best Individual Model pick up for 2021 and What Car? Car of the Year for Best Payload. 4x4 Magazine has named the Musso as 'Best Value' pick-up for the last three years in a row.

Let's start with some basic figures.

Prices start at £23,495 ex VAT or £28,194 if you're not VAT registered. The fact that



SsangYong quotes ex VAT shows that the Musso is aimed very much at the owners who intend to use their Musso as a workhorse. However, pick-ups are also very much a style statement these days and a lot of Mussos will find homes on leafy suburbs and experience nothing trickier than a school run, supermarket or holiday outing to the beach.

Back to basic figures. The Musso is a 'double-cab' which means you get four doors and five seats. Go for the 6-speed automatic version rather than the manual (we would) and you can tow 3.5 tonnes. You can carry just over 1.1 tonnes in the load bed area at the same time. In other

words, the 179 bhp 2.2 litre diesel turbo has incredible strength and flexibility. No other pick-up available in the UK can tow and carry those sorts of weight at the same time. 0-60mph comes up in just over 11 seconds.

If you are worried about towing a trailer or horsebox over soggy ground or reversing a boat into a lake, don't worry because the Musso comes with all-wheel drive. You also get high and low ratio gearboxes.

And don't think that the Musso harks back to its agricultural heritage. It is incredibly refined and quiet. It actually makes for excellent cruising.

Four trim levels are available...EX, Rebel, Saracen and Rhino. Our favourite is the Saracen because you get satellite navigation, climate control, rear view camera, DAB radio, front and rear parking sensors, leather upholstery, heated and ventilated front seats, 18-inch alloys and a stack of safety kit. There's a premium feel to the interior...another shock!

Despite its size, the Musso is good to drive. It rides nicely too. The interior is roomy and comfortable. Kids love riding in a pick-up truck. It has the knack of being able to deliver a pallet of bricks on the morning, haul a hefty trailer in the afternoon and then take you and your friends to a restaurant in the evening.

Surprising SsangYong? You bet.

Nissan Qashqai Built in Sunderland - conquering the world

We can't get enough of the Nissan Qashqai. Perhaps we're biased because the car is built in Sunderland, but since it was launched in 2007, the Qashqai has been top seller in its class for every single year.

No surprise that it's kicked off 2022 with some prestigious awards. The Qashqai was named 'Best Crossover' at 4x4 Magazine's recent annual awards and it received the 'Safety Award' at the What Car? Car of the Year ceremony in January. Editor of What Car? magazine, Steve Huntingford, said: "One of the reasons that the new Nissan Qashqai is 2022 What Car? Safety Award winner is that its overall Euro NCAP score is among the best of all the cars tested in the last 12 months. But for us it's just as significant that such safety comes in a relatively affordable family SUV, because it puts it within reach of so many drivers. The Qashqai protects its occupants in a crash just as well as some models that cost four times as much. And all trim levels come with a suite of very effective active safety systems that minimise the chances of you being involved in an accident in the first place."

Praise indeed.

Engine choice is limited to a pair of 1.3 litre petrol units developing either 136bhp or 154bhp. The 136bhp engine gives you a 0-60 time of 10.2 seconds and a top speed of 122mph. Nissan reckons you'll get 44.5mpg. The 154bhp engine drops the 0-60 sprint to 9.5 seconds, top speed rises to 128mph and economy improves slightly to 44.7mpg.

The 154bhp engine seems to make the Qashqai that much smoother and flexible to drive.

There are five trims...Visia, Acenta Premium, N-Connecta, Tekna and Tekna+. All but the Visia trim are available with both engines and a choice of manual or auto 'boxes. The higher three trims offer all-wheel drive. Unless you live in the sticks, we'd recommend sticking with the front wheel drive set-up.

In terms of kit something like N-Connecta gets you get sat nav, DAB, air con, auto lights and wipers, parking sensors,



Bluetooth, panoramic sunroof, smart 18-inch alloys, rear privacy glass and a 360 degree parking camera.

Out on the road, the Nissan Qashqai is a joy to drive. It has that happy blend of being sufficiently comfy to keep a family happy on long journeys but also being sporty enough to allow for some fun. It soaks up lumps and bumps and handles really well. The steering is light enough to make town driving simple but it also has sufficient weight to give you some 'feel' with the road. Oh and it sounds good too.

It's not a fluke that the Nissan Qashqai has been such a success as a family crossover SUV. It's a reliable car with an upmarket feel that is up to the job of being a commuter-mobile or a family holdall.

No wonder the world loves it. Prices start at £24,555.



V O L V O



Volvo XC40 Recharge Pure Electric

259 Pure electric range*

40 Minute ~80% charged***

4.7 Second 0-62mph

STONEACRE VOLVO

XC40 Recharge Pure Electric

From £278 +VAT per month

with £2,507 +VAT initial rental on business contract hire

The XC40 Recharge doesn't force you to choose between power and responsible driving. Just take your seat, select a gear and enjoy the comfort of one pedal drive and the impressive strength of twin electric motors and all-wheel drive with zero tailpipe emissions. Built in Google completes this ultra smart package.

BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY AND MAKE THE SWITCH TO ELECTRIC

Business Contract Hire, 48 month agreement, 6,000 miles per annum, all prices are plus vat, excess mileage charges apply, you can never own the vehicle.

For more information
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Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland

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0191 516 2800

*259 mile Pure electric Range is according to WLTP driving cycles and real-world range may vary. **40 minute Fast charging DC up to 150 kW under optimal charging conditions. Charging times are dependent on factors such as outdoor temperature, current battery temperature, charging equipment, battery condition and car condition. 4.7 seconds 0.62mph.

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STONEACRE and VOLVO THEY'RE ELECTRIC



There's no getting away from it. Electrically powered cars are the future.

A lot of you reading this may be totally unaware that from 2030 you will no longer be able to buy a new car which is powered by a conventional petrol or diesel engine. Hybrids get the chop in 2035....but....assuming you are going to need a new car at some point, you may as well starting looking very carefully at going electric.

And one of the masters of electric power is Volvo.

And Stoneacre Volvo dealerships are doing their bit too.

Between the 4th and 6th of March they held a successful 'Zero Emissions Electric Event' at their North East showrooms in Newcastle, Sunderland and Stockton. Current and potential customers plus folk who are genuinely interested in electric cars and wanted to find out more information, turned up. They not only wanted to check out the latest range of Volvo electric cars, they also wanted answers to questions like how long does it take to charge? How far can I travel on a single charge? How much will a charge cost? What sort of performance can I expect? These are all valid questions which need answering before buyers can part with their hard earned cash and take the plunge to go electric.

So, let's look at Volvo's two electric cars and get some answers.

They are the C40 Recharge and the XC40 Recharge.

The C40 is a brand new car in the crossover category from Volvo. Prices

start at £44,800.

The XC40 is an SUV which starts from £43,550. If you're not sure about going 100% electric, the XC40 is also available as a plug-in hybrid.

Here are the facts.

The Volvo C40 Recharge and the fully electric XC40 Recharge use the same battery and electric motor options.

The entry level versions develop 228bhp with power going to the front wheels via an electric motor. 0-60mph comes up in 7 seconds. If your battery level has dropped to 10 per cent, take your C40 Recharge or XC40 Recharge to a rapid charger and you will reach an 80% charge in 37 minutes. Current price estimates reckon that a full charge will cost in the region of £9. How does that compare with a tank of fuel? The front wheel drive entry level C40 Recharge has an estimated range of 274 miles. The XC40, which is less streamlined and slightly heavier, still manages 257 miles. Maximum speed for both is 99mph.

A more powerful all-wheel drive 402bhp model is currently available in the XC40 Recharge and will arrive shortly in the

C40 Recharge. It reaches 60 mph in 4.7 secondswow. Power now goes to both front and rear axles via two motors. Maximum speed rises to 112mph.

Oh....and don't forget that the XC40 Recharge, was recently named 2022 What Car? magazine 'Family SUV of the Year'.

Interested? You should be because as well as having zero emissions, excellent range, great performance and a high level of standard equipment, you still get the traditional Volvo incredible levels of safety and build quality.

For more details of how to go electric with Volvo, get in touch with your local Stoneacre Volvo dealer in Newcastle, Sunderland or Stockton. You'll find more details on their website www.stoneacre.co.uk/new-cars/volvo



For more information
Visit website



The **Honda HR-V** Honda plays the **generation game**

Honda's HR-V first arrived in this country in 1998 and it did well. Then the second generation came along and it sort of disappeared without trace.

However, Honda has now launched the third generation of the HR-V and it's certainly upped the ante because this is a handsome machine. There's a serious sense of quality about the interior too.

Honda is keeping things simple when it comes to power choices. There's only one. But it's a good one. This latest HR-V is a self-charging hybrid. The 1.5 litre petrol engine and battery powered electric

motors work in tandem to provide power (129bhp), additional performance and improved economy. 0-60 takes a shade over 10 seconds although it feels quicker. Honda reckon you'll get an impressive 52.3mpg or up to 460 miles on a full tank. An automatic gearbox is standard.

Three grades are available.... Elegance, Advance and Advance Style. All get sat nav, air con, heated front seats, front and rear parking sensors, DAB radio, LED headlights and adaptive cruise control. Advance is likely to be the most popular trim adding around £2300 to the price but you now get a powered tailgate, leather upholstery and heated steering wheel.

Out on the road, the HR-V handles nicely and it's extremely smooth, ironing-out ridges and potholes really well. It's quiet too.

In other words if you need a comfortable, reliable, handsome, family SUV, the Honda HR-V should be on your list of test drives.

Prices for the Honda HR-V start at £27,960



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The **Volvo V60** Playing it safe in a classy estate

All the noise coming from Volvo these days is about their SUVs like the XC40, XC60 and XC90 and how the company is rapidly going full-on electric.



But Volvo made its name by building estates that were reliable, strong, comfortable, roomy and incredibly safe.

Consequently it's all too easy to forget that Volvo is still building those estates in the shape of the enormous V90 and the one we're looking at here, the V60.

As with the entire Volvo range the name Recharge is now part of the product title...so...this particular model of V60 is a Volvo V60 Recharge which means it is a plug-in hybrid (PHEV). If charging isn't an option for you...good news...you can still get a Volvo V60 with conventional petrol power.

The V60 Recharge uses a turbocharged and supercharged 4-cylinder 2.0 litre petrol engine to power the front wheels, while a rechargeable battery-driven electric motor sits on the rear axle to give you all-wheel drive. Add the power of the engine and the electric motor together

and you end up with an output of 345bhp. An 8-speed automatic gearbox comes as standard.

Give this V60 full throttle and you'll hit 60mph in 5.4 seconds which, let's face it, for a family estate is brisk enough. Top speed is 112mph. As for economy, it's tricky because this V60 will travel for up to 54 miles on electric power alone which means if you can keep your daily commute to under that figure you could, theoretically, never use any petrol. Granted, that's not going to happen. If you let the battery run dry and have to use the petrol engine on its own, you'll be lucky to get 40mpg. Anyway, Volvo reckon almost 130mpg is possible if you make full use of the hybrid system as often as possible.

The nature of estates is that they're designed for long distance travel and heavy work. Volvo are masters at this and make their estates ultra-comfortable. We did a round journey to Cambridge in our test car and arrived back home in the North East feeling fresh. It's great to drive.

The interior has a seriously premium feel. Volvo now rivals the likes of Audi, BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar in terms of build quality. Looks great too.

In terms of kit, every V60 is well equipped. Previous Volvo owners will remember

trims like Inscription and R-Design. These have been replaced by Plus and Ultimate. The fascia is dominated by a 9-inch colour touchscreen which is simple to use. Sat nav comes as standard with Plus trim as does leather upholstery, DAB radio and a powered tailgate while Ultimate brings you a really clever 360 degree positioning camera (imagine a satellite looking down on the car) which makes parking a doddle. There's also an upgraded audio system.

And yes, it's loaded with the best sort of safety kit you'll find on any car.

As we said at the start, Volvo made its name by building estates that were reliable, strong, comfortable, roomy and incredibly safe.

They still do.

Prices for the Volvo V60 Recharge start from £48,380.

Stoneacre Volvo Newcastle: Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 6BZ
0191 274 8200

Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland: Wessington Way, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR5 3HR
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2021

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Vauxhall Corsa

VAUXHALL CORSA-E

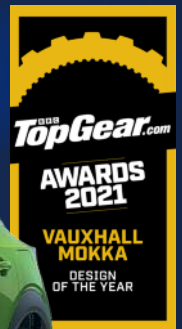
100kW SRi Premium 50kWh 5dr Auto [11kWCh] Electric

£319
CUSTOMER DEPOSIT

£319
48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS

5.9%
REPRESENTATIVE APR

£1,750 FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE†
Paid by Vauxhall



VAUXHALL MOKKA-E

100kW Ultimate 50kWh 5dr Auto Electric

£399
CUSTOMER DEPOSIT

£399
48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS

5.9%
REPRESENTATIVE APR



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Representative Finance Example: Vauxhall Corsa-e 100kW SRi Premium 50kWh 5dr Auto [11kWCh] Electric Hatchback

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£319	£319	£1,750†	£25,695	£23,695	£12,611	£29,992	49 Months	5.75%	5.9%

Based on 5,000 miles per annum[^]

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Sunderland, SR5 2TB
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Vauxhall Durham
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Durham,
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Vauxhall Newcastle
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Scotswood Road,
Newcastle, NE4 7DF
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VAUXHALL

bristolstreet.co.uk/vauxhall

Fuel economy and CO2 results for the Vauxhall Corsa-e 100kW. Mpg (l/100km): N/A. CO2 emissions: 0g/km. Electric range up to 222 miles (WLTP - Preliminary). CO2 results for Vauxhall Mokka-e 100kW Ultimate: Mpg (l/100km): N/A. CO2 emissions: 0g/km. Electric range up to 197 miles (WLTP - Preliminary). Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.

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Vauxhall is number one and that's official.

Bristol Street Motors Vauxhall in the North East has got 2022 off to a flyer. Their Sunderland dealership has just had a £250,000 refurbishment to allow them to bring Peugeot in alongside them, and both Newcastle and Durham continue to have a terrific selection of new and used cars. The new car range has also been racking-up awards like they're going out of fashion.



The latest Vauxhall Corsa is the UK's top selling car. With more than 40,000 models sold in 2021, the Corsa outsold every other new car. The Corsa was also a winner at the 2022 Company Car & Van Awards collecting the 'Small Car of the Year' title. The Vivaro and Vivaro-e also collected gongs as 'Best Medium Van' and 'Best Electric Van.' The e-Vivaro is the UK's best-selling e-LCV, which is hardly surprising because Vauxhall as a whole is the UK's biggest seller of electric LCVs.

Need a bigger car? How about the Vauxhall Insignia...a favourite within the business community since it was first launched in 2008. It has been named 'Upper Medium Car of the Year' for the fifth year running at 2022 Company Car Today awards ceremony.

Oh...and fancy a good-looking family SUV? Head for the Vauxhall Mokka which collected the Top Gear 'Design of the Year' award.

The Mokka has been one of our favourite family SUV's since the original model first appeared ten years ago. The latest version has brought things bang up to date. We agree with Top Gear...the Mokka looks fabulous. It's seriously stylish... something which you can't say about a lot of other family SUVs. You can choose from a wide selection of trims and there are petrol, diesel and electric power options. Something like the mid-range Elite Edition which comes with sat nav, rear view camera, rear parking sensors,



climate control and heated front seats and steering wheel fitted with a 1.0 litre 99bhp petrol engine, is available from £24,905 which represents cracking value for a fully kitted-out SUV.

Everybody loves the Vauxhall Corsa. You don't get to be the UK's top seller by some sort of fluke. If you have driven or ridden in one of the previous generation models, you need to try the latest Corsa... it's a quantum leap forward in terms of driving enjoyment, build quality and standard equipment. It might fit into the supermini hatchback class, but it feels very roomy and very grown-up. As with the Mokka you can choose from petrol, diesel or electric power. In terms of trim the SRi Edition is our favourite...so is the 99bhp petrol engine. You'll get sports style front seats which are also heated, sports body styling, climate control, dark tinted rear windows and a really smart 7-inch colour touchscreen which has Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Prices for the Vauxhall Corsa SRi Edition 1.2 start at £21,630.

And how about this. It's the Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer. Smart huh? It arrives in the summer. Can't wait.

Vauxhall at number one in the UK sales charts! No surprise there then.

Go and check out the Vauxhall range at Bristol Street Motors Vauxhall. You're in for a big surprise.



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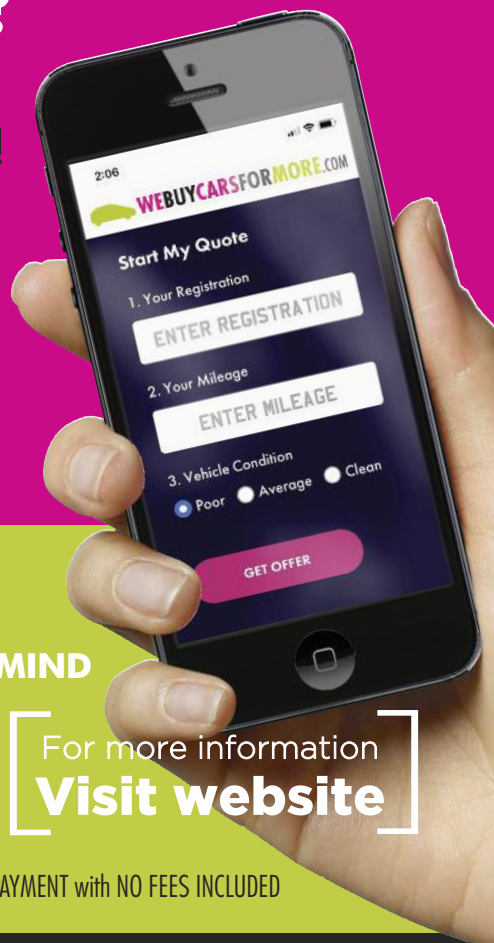
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BENTLEY GOES HUNTING'. SHOOTIN', AND FISHIN' FOR SALES

Fancy some envious looks at your next point to point or gymkhana? Want to be admired as you reverse your yacht into a lake. How about making folk drool as you unload your luxury hamper for a tasty picnic while watching a regatta.

Look no further than the Bentley Bentayga. Bentley aficionados were spluttering into their brandy when it was announced that a 4x4 would be joining the Bentley range. It's now Bentley's top seller. Needless to say that with so much power on tap, towing a horse box, boat, jet ski or even a caravan, is a doddle. This is peerless motoring at its best.

Don't be fooled by the fact that this is a Bentley. It's not all about style and no substance. The Bentayga is a serious 4x4 and will happily scramble across boggy fields and rutted lanes (mind the brambles...a paint touch-up will cost a fortune). We shan't list the standard equipment...let's just say there's everything you're likely to ever need. The interior is a work of art. The school run

will move onto another level! And despite the size, the Bentley Bentayga is wonderful to drive. Sounds fab too.

Bentley are also masters at creating special editions. They're usually crafted by the bespoke Mulliner arm of the company.

Take this latest one for example. It's the Bentley Outdoor Pursuits Collection. There are three models following equestrian, fishing and canine themes which, Bentley informs us, is because three of our favourite activities are angling, horse riding and dog walking. The leather seats get an embroidered

woodland scene while the veneer fascia gets an inlay which features either a jumping horse motif, a fly-fishing scene, foxhounds or just the word 'Mulliner'.

Power comes from a 4.0 litre 548 bhp V8 petrol engine. 0-60 in 4.5 seconds...top speed 180mph. You'll manage around 21mpg...just. And don't expect to get a lot of change from £200,000.

This is a true continental express that is equally happy trundling along towing a horse box. British craftsmanship doesn't get any better.



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BENTLEY



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HOLIDAY ON WHEELS THE FREEDOM TO DISCOVER.

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One of the words we hear frequently at Tyne Valley Motorhomes is FREEDOM – freedom to be able to take a break whenever you want, freedom to be in your own space, freedom to come and go as you like and after a year of lockdown, freedom to move around has become even more precious.

Being self sufficient within your own bubble and having every luxury at your fingertips means you can enjoy great UK destinations.

With 'opening up', many events are now back on the calendar and many attractions are open to see. Staying as a

family and using a motorhome to attend these activities is a great way to travel.

There is no doubt that there will be a huge demand from those wishing to enjoy their new found 'freedom' and wish to holiday in safety and luxury in the UK, so act now and get ahead of the pent up demand.



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Call Simon or Jonathan now on 01207 272777, they will be happy to advise you about gaining your freedom to travel in style





Car of the Year: Kia EV6 RWD GT-Line

It's that time of year again.

What? Car magazine Car of the Year awards 2022

One of the most influential monthly motor magazines, not only here in the UK but worldwide, is What Car?

And one of the most prestigious awards any manufacturer can collect is if one of their products is named as the What Car? Car of the Year. It's a bit like winning the Oscars..... but with wheels.

And the winner for 2022 is the Kia EV6. What Car? said...."The Kia EV6 stood out

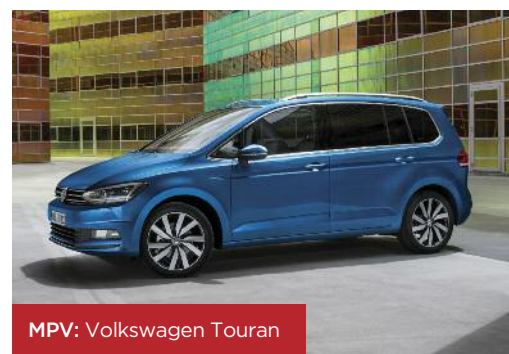
for setting new benchmarks for electric cars, offering an official range of 328 miles, and managing 224 miles on a charge when What Car?'s testers ran it in near worst-case low temperature conditions. It is also capable of super-fast, 800V charging, with its battery capable of going from 10-80% in as little as 18 minutes. In addition, the EV6 earned praise from the judges for being hugely spacious, very refined even by electric car

standards and for being sold with the reassurance of a standard-setting seven-year warranty." We reckon it also looks great too.

Kia are doing well in terms of the Car of the Year title...they also won it in 2019 with the Kia e-Niro. It also shows just how well Kia is performing overall because it is only the third non-European manufacturer to win the top prize at the What Car?



Small car: Honda Jazz SR



MPV: Volkswagen Touran



Pick-up: Ford Ranger

Performance car: Porsche Taycan Cross Turismo 4S



Awards, which began in 1978. It's probably no surprise that their two winning cars were both electrically powered. Kia and their sister South Korean company, Hyundai, are probably leading the electric car development race... at the moment.

You can read about what we thought of the Kia EV6 here in AutOh!

Other big winners on the night included BMW, which recorded a five category victories. It won the prizes for the best Luxury SUV (with the BMW X5), Executive car (BMW 3 Series), Luxury car (BMW 5 Series), Coupé (BMW 4 Series) and Convertible (BMW 4 Series Convertible).

Ford was the next most successful manufacturer, with three category wins: Small SUV, (Ford Puma), Sports SUV (Ford Puma ST) and Pick-up (Ford Ranger). Tesla was also a notable winner after recording a record-breaking year for sales, taking the Large Electric Car category with its Model 3.

Here we go with the full list of winners at the What Car? Car of the Year Awards 2022.

OVERALL WINNER

Car of the Year: Kia EV6 RWD GT-Line



Convertible: BMW 4 Series 420i

Hot hatch: Mercedes-AMG A45



Large SUV: Hyundai Santa Fe



CATEGORY WINNERS

Small car:	Honda Jazz SR
Family car:	Seat Leon 1.5 TSI 130 Evo FR
Small SUV:	Ford Puma 1.0 EcoBoost Hybrid (mHEV)
Family SUV:	Volvo XC40 Recharge T4 Plus (Dark Theme)
Electric SUV:	Kia EV6 RWD GT-Line
Large SUV:	Hyundai Santa Fe 4WD Premium
Luxury SUV:	BMW X5 xDrive45e M Sport
Sports SUV:	Ford Puma ST 1.5 EcoBoost 200 Performance Pack
Hybrid (plug-in):	Lexus NX 450h+ F Sport Premium Plus Pack
Small electric car:	Cupra Born 58kWh V2
Large electric car:	Tesla Model 3 Long Range
Executive car:	BMW 3 Series 330e M Sport (M Sport Pro Package)
Luxury car:	BMW 5 Series 530e M Sport (M Sport Pro Package)
Estate:	Skoda Superb Estate 2.0 TDI 150 SEL
MPV:	Volkswagen Touran 1.5 TSI 150 SE
Pick-up:	Ford Ranger 2.0L EcoBlue 213PS Wildtrack auto
Hot hatch:	Mercedes-AMG A45 S Plus
Performance car:	Porsche Taycan Cross Turismo 4S
Coupé:	BMW 4 Series 420i M Sport (M Sport Pro Package)
Convertible:	BMW 4 Series Convertible 420i (M Sport Pro Package)
Sports car:	Porsche Cayman GTS

To find out more, visit: www.whatcar.com/awards

Vertu Motors READY TO RECRUIT

Vertu Motors Group is one of the UK's leading motor franchises. It was formed in 2006 and, as well as the Vertu brand they also operate under the name of Bristol Street Motors and Macklin Motors. You'll find Bristol Street dealerships across England while Macklin Motors can be found in Scotland.

Head office for the Vertu Motors Group is on Team Valley in Gateshead.

In terms of manufacturers, you'll find just about every single car maker is represented under the Vertu Motor Group banner including Audi, BMW, Citroen, CUPRA, Dacia, DS, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar, Jeep, Kia, Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes-AMG, MG, MINI, Nissan, Peugeot, Renault, SEAT, SKODA, smart, Suzuki, Toyota and Volkswagen and Vauxhall. An exhaustive list to say the least.

They have an extensive stock of used cars too. As well as those cars available at every dealership, Vertu Motor Group has also developed the Motornation used car retail operation. Motornation has two outlets in Glasgow and Derby but a new one is due to open in Stockton in May 2022.

And of course, when you have so many dealerships...over 150 at the last count... you need a sizeable workforce. It's currently approaching 6000 team members.

No surprise therefore that there's bound to be a certain amount of turnover in terms of staff leaving which, obviously,

means vacancies are cropping up continually.

"At the moment we have 473 vacancies at our dealerships across the UK as well as at our head office," said Sarah Pierce, Recruitment Manager for the Vertu Motor Group. "Some of those vacancies are for more than one new team member so we are actually looking to employ 575 people. It's a hugely challenging job which changes from day to day, and I have to say that at the moment it is a candidate-led marketplace. We are keen to employ good people...some experience would be useful...but it really is a case of finding the right person.

It's a similar situation with our apprenticeship scheme. We want to bring new talent into the motor industry but it is actually quite difficult to attract people. There are just over 180 spaces available on our apprenticeship schemes. It rates as one of the best schemes in the UK so if anyone is reading this and would like to forge a career in the motor trade, please get in touch."

Vertu Motor Group is establishing a new training programme which ensures all members of the team keep up to date with latest trends as well as ensuring that



their work-life balance is catered for. The company is also targeting people who might not have previously considered working in the motor trade.

"Traditionally the job of someone like a sales advisor has required long hours. We're changing that. We're now making the position of a sales advisor much the same as everyone else with set hours and set working days. Other positions are now much more flexible whereby we integrate some flexible hybrid working. This allows some of the team to work from home. However, certain positions like technicians and sales advisors need to come into the dealerships."

So, what sort of salary can you expect if you join Vertu Motors Group?

A sales advisor typically has a £28,000 basic salary with bonus on top. A service apprentice will earn £18,000 in the first 12 months increasing after that to match the service advisors, who generally earn around £26,500. Technician salaries range from £24k to £45k depending on experience.

Interested?

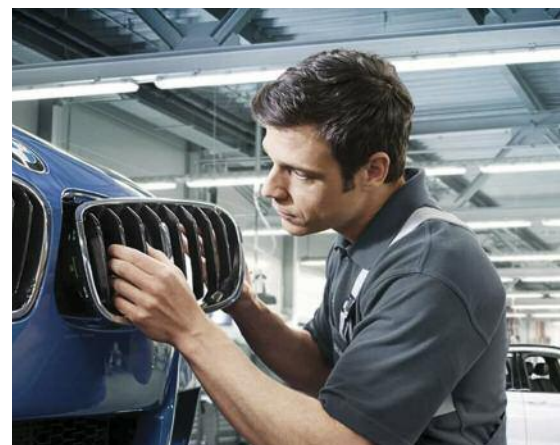
Go onto the [VertuCareers.com](https://www.vertumotors.com/careers) or email recruitment@vertumotors.com

Good luck.

Join Vertu Motors Group and your career could be motoring.



For more information
Visit website



AUDI is flying high

Bearing in mind what the motor industry...and a lot of other industries...have been through in the last couple of years, it's incredible to report that Audi's sales figures for last year were higher than those of 2020. COVID-19 was bad enough with showrooms closed, assembly lines often suspended and customers trapped at home, but then, just when it looked as though things were easing, there was a global shortage of semiconductors.



For more information
Visit website

These little electronic circuit boards are about the size of a postage stamp, but without them you'll not be able to operate the vast majority of safety systems, sat nav, airbags, parking sensors, intermittent wipers, direction indicators etc.... the list is endless. Even a very basic cars has over a hundred of them. The vast majority of Audis will have over a thousand.

Consequently, the fact that Audi sales held up, is stunning.

And at two of the Audi centres here in the North East...Tyneside Audi and Wearside Audi...you will still find a great selection of new and used Audis on sale.

If you are looking for a particular model or a specification, okay you may have a slightly longer wait than the dealerships would like, but that hasn't stopped buyers coming forward. The order book at all three dealerships is extremely healthy which is not surprising really when you

look at the sort of latest models coming through from Audi.

Demand for new Audis is also increasing because a lot of buyers have been delaying things until the COVID-19 and semiconductor situation is resolved.

And, in an effort to meet demand, the Audi dealerships are now stocking quality used Audis up to 8 years of age. Each one will have been thoroughly checked by the expert technicians so you can buy with confidence. Every used car will be part of the Audi Approved programme.

Thankfully, there's light at the end of the tunnel. Experts predict that the supply of microchips should be back to normal by summertime. Phew.

And just look at the choice you have at Audi. There's something for everyone including an ever-expanding range of electric cars. Almost 10% of Audi cars sold in this country are now the battery

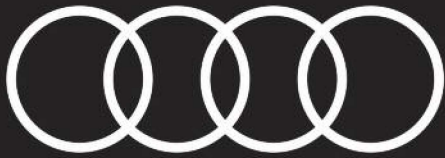
powered e-tron models.

Elsewhere, most of the Audi range is available with either conventional petrol or diesel power...but don't forget from January 2030 you will no longer be able to buy new car with a petrol or diesel engine under the bonnet, although hybrids can carry on until 2035.

So, it doesn't matter whether you want a saloon, hatchback, estate, SUV, coupé or convertible...2, 4, 5 or 7 seats...petrol, diesel, hybrid or electric, they are all available at your local Audi dealership.

We'd recommend that you either pop in and have a chat with the sales team or give them a call. They'll find exactly the right Audi for you and give you an update on delivery times. The situation is improving rapidly...you could get behind the wheel of an Audi sooner than you expect.

You're in for a treat.



Audi A1 Sportback

Style meets versatility.

For more information

Visit website

The Audi A1 Sportback is the perfect urban accomplice; compact and taut, without compromising on style or detail.

From £299 per month, drive away with an Audi A1 Sportback with PCP at 6.4% APR Representative and a £499 customer deposit*.

Solutions (Personal Contract Plan) representative example based on 8,000 miles per annum
Representative Example

Duration	49 months
48 monthly payments of	£299.00
Deposit	£499.00
Retail cash price	£21,126.24
Acceptance fee	£0.00
Optional final payment	£10,236.25
Option to purchase fee	£10.00
Total amount payable	£25,097.25
Total amount of credit	£20,627.24
Representative APR	6.4% APR
Rate of interest	6.39% fixed



Tyneside Audi Silverlink Park, NE28 9NT

Wearside Audi Newcastle Road, SR5 1JQ

Terms and conditions: Personal Contract Plan. Terms & Conditions. Retail Customers only. No other offers may be used in conjunction with the above detailed offer. Vehicle finance offers are as shown in the respective Representative Examples above at participating Retailers only. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1st December 2021 and 31st March 2022. Retail customers aged 18 and over only. On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes (if applicable) 12-month road fund licence/vehicle first registration fee/delivery/number plates/VAT). Finance available subject to credit acceptance. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. At the beginning of the personal contract the legal owner is the finance provider and at the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Optional final payment not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. You will have a 14-day statutory right to withdraw from the agreement. Images shown are for guidance purposes. In some instances, photos are of non-UK specification vehicles and do not represent a specific model, grade or offer. The features shown may not be available or may be limited to selected grades. Lookers Audi is a trading name of Lookers Motor Group Limited, 3 Etchells Road, West Timperley, Altrincham, WA14 5XS, registered in England & Wales Reg. No. 143470. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. We are a credit broker not a lender and can introduce you to a number of lenders. Introducing you to a number of lenders means we receive a commission. Lenders pay commission at different rates, either as a fixed fee, or as a fixed percentage of the amount you borrow. The commission that we receive does not affect the amount that you pay to the lender under the credit agreement.

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