

March 2024

autoh!

the North East's own motor magazine : issue 22



NISSAN
**Lookers
Nissan**
p 4 & 5

NISSAN:
**New models
and new home
for Nissan.**

p5



MINI
**MINI Changes
Gear. p6**



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welcome to **autoOh!**

This is the 22nd 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 200 businesses. We are the region's leading magazine for anyone who's interested in cars. As usual, there is a full round-up of latest news and products from your local franchise car dealers.

Our headline article is about the developments at Nissan. Lookers has opened a new, multi-million-pound dealership in Sunderland...and it is the perfect place to see the latest range of Nissan cars including the Juke, Qashqai, X-Trail and Ariya, as well as the car that started the electric revolution, the Leaf.

There's a busy time coming up at MINI and BMW. The entire MINI range is being revamped and there'll be a brand new model called the Aceman. Meanwhile, at

BMW, the big news is the arrival of the electric 5 Series. You can also expect other models in the range to be updated too.

Fancy driving one of the most luxurious...and expensive...cars available? How about a Rolls Royce? We take the Cullinan for a test drive with a difference.... towing a horsebox.

This time of year, is when loads of award ceremonies take place, so we take a look at who's collected which gongs.

Hyundai (now pronounced as Hunday... as in Sunday) had a big winner when their Ioniq 6 collected World Car of the Year, World Electric Vehicle of the Year and World Car Design of the Year. Their Kona, Tucson and Ioniq 5 also picked up awards.

MG, Kia and Dacia also need to find some room in their trophy cabinets.

BYD...Build Your Dreams...is one of the latest car manufacturers to appear on our shores. Heard of them? No? Well we guarantee you'll be hearing a lot about them in the future. They have big plans. We try the BYD Seal.

The summer holidays are coming and there's good news if you have an electric car and enjoy visiting the Yorkshire National Park. They've teamed-up with BMW to install a load of electric chargers.

We also check out the latest Mercedes E Class, Renault Clio, Polestar and Jeep Avenger.

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 hundreds of used cars and you can read previous editions.

Graham Courtney, Editor.



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THE YAYAYAVOOM CONTINUES AT RENAULT

Latest Clio is better than ever and the Captur gets a range of updates.

Renault has the knack of producing cars which hit the sweet spot.

At the top end you have the Austral and recently launched Arkana...in the middle you've got the Megane, Scenic and Captur, while if you're looking for a small car, you'll love the Zoe and Clio.

Oh and if you fancy an electric car which hints at the Renault history books, then hang on for the new Renault 5. (We can remember the early 1980s when there was a mid-engine, rear wheel drive Renault 5 Turbo which could hit 60mph in a shade over 6 seconds. It was road-going version of a very successful rally car.)

The Clio is a seriously important car for Renault. It's the model that has the price to attract new buyers to the brand... (from £17,795 Feb '24)...and will lead customers to move up the range as their requirements and, more likely, family size grows.

You have two engine options...either 1.0 litre petrol or the E-Tech badged 1.6 litre hybrid petrol. Okay, the hybrid model will set you back a further £3.5k, but we think it makes for a better car. It'll probably retain more of its value too.

The 147bhp combined power output of the engine and electric motor, gives you a 0-60 time of 9.3 seconds via a seriously smooth shifting automatic gearbox. Go easily and you'll get close



to 70mpg. Emission levels are good which means the Renault Clio also makes sense if you are a company car driver.

Out on the road, the Clio has a surprisingly sporty ride but, on the plus side, that gives you really good handling.

You can choose from 3 trim levels... Evolution, Techno and Esprit Alpine... but every Clio is well equipped. The entry level Evolution comes with sat nav, apple and android connectivity, LED headlights, powered windows and mirrors, rear parking sensors, and air con. We'd consider spending an extra £1400 for Techno trim which also brings stuff like a rear view camera, front parking sensors and really smart 17-inch alloys.

Need something bigger?

Take a close look at the Renault Captur. It's a good-looking compact SUV which

will suit any family perfectly. As with the Clio, it's well equipped and comes with the same trim and power options, although the top trim is called E-Tech Engineered rather than Alpine. You get a really good level of standard kit and safety gizmos.

Comfort is high on the agenda. Even though the Captur is largely based on the Clio, it rides more smoothly...it's extremely refined and even provides a keen driver with a decent level of fun, something which you couldn't say about some of its competitors.

In terms of the power options, we'd follow the same advice for the Captur as with the Clio...go for the more power, more economical...and yes more expensive...E-Tense 1.6 litre hybrid version. It's worth the additional outlay. Costs start at £24,795 (Feb '24).

Whichever one you go for, when it comes to the Renault Clio and Renault Captur, you've got two of the smartest, economical and good to drive cars in their class.



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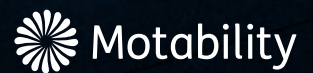
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Lookers Reveals All-New Nissan Dealership in Sunderland



servicing and MOTs, and supported by a passionate, knowledgeable and experience team, Lookers Nissan Sunderland puts local customers first.”

Sunderland forms part of a major multimillion-pound investment programme by Lookers in the fast-growing, innovation-focused Nissan marque in the UK and Ireland.

Lookers is currently creating a new £3.25 million dealership at Portland Road in Newcastle which is on track to open in 2024. Earlier this year, Lookers also opened the doors on a new £1 million dealership in nearby Gateshead.

In June this year, Nissan Sunderland’s manufacturing hub become the fastest UK car manufacturer to reach 11 million vehicles, confirming its status as the UK’s largest car manufacturer by volume with around five million parts arriving at the plant per day.

Last month, Nissan and its partners announced a £2 billion plan to build three electric car models at its Sunderland factory. The Japanese firm will build electric Qashqai and Juke models at the plant alongside the next generation of the electric Leaf, which is already produced there.

Fancy a look around and chat to the staff about what Lookers Nissan can do for you? Give them a call on 0191 564 56608 or just pop into the showroom on Newcastle Road.

Lookers Nissan...the new name for Nissan in Sunderland.

£1.8m investment sees transformation of the company’s former Ford site on Newcastle Road

It all seems appropriate that Sunderland should be the base for Lookers stunning new Nissan dealership, bearing in mind that not too far away from the showroom is Nissan’s massive manufacturing plant just off the A19 where 6,000 people are employed.

Lookers’ new state-of-the-art Nissan franchised dealership has now been spectacularly transformed to exacting Nissan specifications, incorporating a spectacular 12-car showroom, customer lounge areas, extensive EV charging points, new workshops and a handover bay. Everything has been designed to provide local customers with a premier retail and aftersales experience. The new Lookers Nissan dealership at 8 Newcastle Road is instantly recognisable following the installation of the striking new Nissan logo signage – the brand’s first style change in more than two decades to reflect its rich heritage and digital future.

Around 35 staff will be employed at Lookers’ newest franchise location. Rest assured, there will be plenty of recognisable faces.

The expansive 27,000 sq. ft purpose-built showroom now showcases a wide range of new Nissan models including the new all-electric Nissan ARIYA, featuring cutting-edge design and



powerful electric mobility, the Juke Hybrid and the British-built Qashqai – the UK’s most popular new car last year.

Welcoming Lookers’ latest investment in Sunderland and in the Nissan brand, Lookers’ Franchise Director, Robert Dier, said:

“Sunderland is once again the beating heart of Nissan’s UK manufacturing operations and we’re absolutely delighted to be investing locally in a new state-of-the-art Nissan dealership in an incredible city where everyone can experience this outstanding car brand’s style, innovation and focus on sustainable driving in an exemplar retail environment that customers will love.

“A stunning showcase for Nissan’s newest models which incorporates a wide range of used models and on-site



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MINI CHANGES GEAR

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2024 IS LIKELY TO BE THE BUSIEST YEAR IN THE RECENT HISTORY OF MINI

MINI is one of those rare manufacturers which has DNA coursing through its veins. New generations of various models come and go...but they're still recognisable as a MINI.

Once you get in you instantly spot MINI trademarks like the toggle switches and large central speedo and infotainment screen.

Then you set off and quickly discover that, yep, no matter which model you go for, it's still wonderful to drive and has typical 'go-kart' handling.

It's a case of all change...but no change

in the important areas of design, style, quality and fun. Every MINI is hugely desirable.

So, what's in store for MINI lovers in 2024?

The key message is this. The entire MINI range will be updated. There will be new models in the shape of new MINI Cooper, new MINI Countryman and a



brand new model in the all-electric MINI Aceman.

The new MINI Countryman is available with either electric or petrol power. The electric version arrives later in the year (prices will start from £41,500), but the petrol model has just landed at Vertu Sunderland and Durham.



Under the bonnet you'll find a 1.5 litre 167bhp engine which gives you a 0-60 time of 8.3 seconds. In terms of fuel economy MINI reckon you'll get close to 46mpg, which is good going bearing in mind that this is quite a large car. A 4-wheel drive Countryman ALL4 will join the range in a few months, powered by a 2.0 litre engine...and yes there will be a John Cooper Works version.

Need something a bit smaller...need electric? Well the good news is that the new MINI Cooper hatchback picks up where the previous model leaves off, but whereas the electric version of the MINI Countryman arrives later this year, the MINI Cooper EV is already here. It'll be joined by the petrol model very shortly.

This is the 5th generation of the MINI Cooper...but it is actually two cars in one because although the electric and petrol MINIs look almost identical, they're built on different platforms. Gone are the days when a petrol MINI was converted to accept a battery and electric motor.

The MINI Cooper EV models are available as Electric E and Electric SE. They get different trims and different power outputs. The Electric E offers 181bhp and a predicted range of 190 miles, while the SE gets a bigger battery which produces 215bhp and a potential range of 250 miles. Charging from 10-80% takes around 30 minutes. 0-60 comes up in just under 7 seconds although it feels much quicker because you zoom away from standstill thanks to instantly having 100% power.

And then towards the end of 2024 there'll be the Aceman. We've still not received full details about this car, but if you are currently driving or would like a 5-door MINI Cooper, then you'll have a rough idea of what to expect from the Aceman. What we do know is that MINI is only planning to launch the Aceman with electric power. It is likely to have the same batteries, power outputs and trim options as the 3-door Cooper hatchback.

So, plenty of exciting new models are coming up from MINI.

But don't forget that the MINI used approved programme means that you can choose from a vast selection of



current and previous models.

Need any further information? The best idea is to pop in for a chat with the guys at MINI Sunderland and Durham. They'll show what they've got and what's coming-up.

2024 looks like being the year of the MINI.



YOU GOTTA ROLL WITH IT

We can all dream a little. Basking on a Caribbean beach... eating at The Ivy in London... winning the lottery. How about owning a Rolls Royce?

Because let's face it, if you fancy something like a Rolls Royce Cullinan, you are more than likely to be untroubled by the rising price of milk and bread or turning on the heating for an extra hour.

Rolls Royce can't build these colossal vehicles fast enough....and it's

understandable why for the simple reason that if you are in the financial state where you can think of spending £303,000 on a means of transport, then this is the finest SUV you can buy if luxury is top of your preference tick list.

As well as the price, some other figures are equally impressive. Under the

bonnet lies a 6749cc petrol engine which develops a thumping 563bhp. Send all of that power through the all-wheel drive 8-speed auto gearbox and you'll hit 60mph in a staggering 5 seconds and zoom on to a top speed of 155mph. Not bad for a car that weighs over 2.6 tonnes. You'll do well to manage 18.8mpg.

You have phenomenal power and even more phenomenal presence. Only a few of us would be in a situation where a Rolls Royce Cullinan would qualify for a daily commute....but if you are fortunate to be one of those people then the Cullinan will fit the bill. You sit high above everyone, cocooned in luxury. You can have 4 or 5 seats. The only snag is finding a parking space, although we suspect you may already have one allocated. It's big.

And yes, it'll handle all of the





there's a button you can press that does it for you.

And what about the photos you see here? We were lucky enough to be asked by Rolls Royce to come up with a feature that could show how a Rolls Royce Cullinan is terrific for towing. We have to confess that we were a bit surprised to discover that you can get a Roller with a tow bar...but...here's the proof. As for how it drives with a fully loaded horse box well...to be honest, there's so much power under the bonnet that you really wouldn't know that you were towing anything. Thankfully, it was an utterly painless experience. Phew. We didn't want to dent anything! Oh...and the countryside around Ivesley is pretty spectacular too.

Anyway, if you want the ultimate in luxurious motoring and with excellent off-road manners thrown in for good measure, nothing beats the Cullinan.

performance and cross a muddy field towing a horse box (shock, you can get a tow bar fitted) but, if truth be told, even though the way this Roller can launch away from standstill is something to behold, it isn't what Rolls Royce cars are all about. They're about either wafting along gracefully or having a high speed cruise to the Côte d'Azur. It's all completely effortless and surprisingly enjoyable, Granted, the Cullinan is huge, but once you're inside it is remarkably easy to punt along. The square-ish front and rear make it easy to place on the road.

Rolls Royce Cullinan value for money? It depends on your point of view. Spending a third of a million pounds on a car will be either ridiculous or justified. There are other luxurious cars out there but, hey, they ain't a Rolls Royce.

As for the interior, the build quality is staggering. Although Rolls Royce will customise the car to your heart's content, (one buyer had 446 diamonds inserted into the fascia) you get everything you could possibly need. Oh, and if you'd rather not do something as vulgar as reaching out to close the door,

Here's an interesting question; is the



BMW 5 SERIES GETS 100% ELECTRIC POWER

Don't panic traditionalists... internal combustion still available.

The 8th generation of the BMW 5 Series is instantly recognisable. However, when it comes to what lies beneath this extremely smart skin, this is the start of the future for the 5 Series car and every other model in the BMW range.

The biggest change is that the 5 Series you see here is powered 100 per cent by batteries. Yes the petrol and plug-in hybrid versions continue, but there's no diesel option.

BMW is concentrating on high efficiency petrol models which explains why the limited combustion choice is a 2.0 litre 520i and a couple of plug-in hybrids.

The 520i, which now comes with an 8-speed automatic gearbox as standard, will continue to be popular with private and company buyers.

The pair of 530e and 550e PHEV versions offer 2.0 litre 4-cylinder 295 bhp (6.3 secs 0-60 and 142 mph top speed) or 3.0 litre 6-cylinder 482 bhp (4.3 secs 0-60; 155 top speed) powerplants. Go easily, probably at town speeds or in traffic, and you'll manage up to 56 and 62 miles respectively on

battery power alone. You can reach 86 mph before the engine joins in.

But, as with every other car manufacturer, the future for BMW is electric.

One of the latest battery powered models to arrive is this BMW i5 M60 xDrive.

We went on the launch and came away surprised for the simple reason that it drives in very much the same manner as the more powerful 7th generation 5 Series models. It has character.

You get two electric power options in the BMW i5. The eDrive 40 which develops 335 bhp and gives you a 0-60 time of 6 seconds and a top speed of 120 mph. Go easily and BMW reckon you'll manage an impressive 357 miles on a single charge. Okay, in the real

world that's likely to mean around 300 miles, but that's still impressive for a large, heavy car.

The i5 M60 xDrive is the star of the show. With 593 bhp on tap and all-wheel drive, the car rockets off the line and just keeps on going. 0-60 mph in 3.8 seconds is seriously impressive, as is the 142 mph top speed. Your potential range will drop...probably to around 280 miles...but it means you end up with a high performance saloon with the sort of range that makes electric driving a serious possibility for the typical 5 Series driver.

And when the time comes to take a break, you'll get from 10 to 80 per cent battery charge in around half an hour using a rapid charger.

Phew. An electric BMW 5 Series which has picked up where something like the BMW 540i has left off. All is well in the land of the 5 Series.



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It's game, set and match at Volkswagen.

Ever-popular Match trim returns. Happy 50th birthday for the Golf. New Passat now on sale.



These are busy times at Volkswagen, the UK's best-selling new-car brand for the past three years. They're launching new and updated models as well as bringing back one of their most popular trim levels...Match.

Let's start with the brand new model... the new Passat. Prices start from £38,400 (March '24) ...the order books are open.

The car, which is only available as an estate, is slightly longer and wider than the outgoing model. Enhancements to the interior include a completely redesigned digital cockpit incorporating the latest tech, most of which can be controlled using the new voice control.

The head-up driver display has been improved and the seats now come with massage, ventilation and heating functions.

A new acoustic package introduces double glazing and an acoustic film laminated onto the side windows to reduce noise.

Three trims are available at launch...Life, Elegance and R-Line. All come with a six or seven-speed automatic gearbox as standard. Versions with the 1.5 TSI 148bhp mild hybrid engine are available now...plug-in eHybrids will join the line-up later in the year.

One car getting a mid-life refresh is the ever-popular Golf. Volkswagen is calling it Mk 8.5.

Externally there's not a lot to differentiate it from the 8th generation car which was launched in 2019. New LED lights at the front and rear, restyled bumper and an illuminated VW badge are just about it.

The big changes are inside. You get a smart 10.4-inch touchscreen for the latest infotainment system, most of which can be controlled by pads and switches on the steering wheel.

There are touch-sensitive panels on the dashboard for adjusting temperature and audio volume. The driver has a 10.2-inch digital screen behind the steering wheel as well as a head-up display.

In terms of power options, there will be PHEV, mild hybrid, turbocharged petrol (TSI) and turbocharged diesel (TDI) variants available from launch.

Order books for the latest Golf will open later in the spring.

Lastly, Volkswagen, is bringing back the Match trim to 10 models including, for the first time, electric vehicles. It's a popular trim, offering a load of additional kit for only a slight hike in price. It'll be available on the Polo, T-Cross, Taigo, T-Roc, Tiguan and Touran adding extra equipment compared with Life (SE Family for Touran).

Match trims for the ID.3, ID.4 and ID.5 come with added equipment, but also benefit from reduced on-the-road prices. Match trim also encompasses the all-new ID.7 offering, to coincide with the arrival of this flagship Volkswagen EV.

It's also worth mentioning that Match trim cars perform well in the used car market.

So, new and refreshed models and the return of a favourite trim...exciting times at Volkswagen.



HYUNDAI CARS ARE WINNERS

They've got a burgeoning trophy cabinet to prove it.

We really rate Hyundai cars...and so do a lot of other folk. Take a look at this impressive list.

Hyundai Ioniq 6 - 2023 World Car of the Year, World Electric Vehicle of the Year, World Car Design of the Year.

Hyundai Ioniq 5 N - Top Gear Car of the Year 2023

Hyundai all-new Kona Electric - 2023 Auto Express Car of the Year, Small SUV of the Year and Small Company Car of the Year.

Hyundai Ioniq 5 - 2022 World Car of the Year.

Hyundai Tucson Hybrid - Auto Express Mid-size SUV of the Year in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

All of those cars use battery power to a greater or lesser extent. Hyundai's 100% electric car development in particular is impressive, and we reckon one of their best is the all-new Hyundai Kona.

It's also worth pointing out that the Kona Electric is available on the Motability scheme. If you qualify for the scheme you can take advantage of leasing this excellent car with only a £99 advance and access to free charging points. Needless to say that the Electric Kona is a brilliant car for anyone with a disability. It's a doddle to drive.

There are two power plants available (65kWh producing 215 bhp and 48kWh - 154 bhp) and four levels of trim... Advance (48kWh only), N Line (65kWh only), N Line S (65kWh only) and Ultimate (65kWh).

If you're still unsure about switching from conventional to electric power, the Hyundai Kona could be the one which gives you that final nudge. Go for the bigger battery and you'll get a 0-60mph



time of 7.8 seconds, top speed 107 mph and a potential range of 319 miles. This is the sort of family-sized SUV that really can be used on a day to day basis for your normal commute, shopping run plus a holiday outing, without the dreaded range anxiety creeping in.

For many people those sorts of figures will mean charging the car on a Sunday night and having sufficient juice in the battery to get you through the working week.

If you need an 80 per cent top-up, not a problem. Plug into a rapid charger at a service station and after 47 minutes or so you'll be on your way.

Every Kona is good to drive...if anything, the electric version is even better because it's responsive and, of course, you ride along in near silence.

Great car...it'll probably have collected a few more awards by the time you read this.



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Hyundai IONIQ 5
168kW Premium 77 kWh 5dr Auto

£529 | **0% APR***

36 Monthly Payments
£1,999 Customer Deposit

Annual Mileage 6,000. Excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile

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168kW Premium 77 kWh 5dr Auto

£490 | **0% APR***

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£1,999 Customer Deposit

Annual Mileage 6,000. Excess mileage charge of 7.5p per mile



IONIQ 5 and IONIQ 6 0% APR*

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0330 096 0866

Hyundai Sunderland

Wessington Way, Castletown,
Sunderland, SR5 3NX
0330 178 8733



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Maximum electric range for IONIQ6: 338 miles. CO₂ emissions: 0 g/km. Maximum electric range for IONIQ 5: 315 miles. CO₂ emissions: 0 g/km. These figures were obtained after the battery had been fully charged. The electric shown was achieved using the WLTP test procedure. Figures show are for compatibility purposes. Only compare fuel consumption, CO₂ and electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend up on a number of factors including road conditions, outdoor temperature, driving style, use of climate control and battery condition. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. 8 years or 100,000 mile warranty on vehicle battery unit. *0% APR offer available on retail sales over maximum 36 months with no minimum deposit. Offer applies to IONIQ 5 and IONIQ 6 models excluding IONIQ 5 N. Subject to status. 18s and over. Guarantee may be required. Hyundai Finance, RH2 9AQ. All offers are subject to availability, while stocks last and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased, registered in the UK between 1st January and 31st March 2024, and sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised retailers. 0% APR offer is not valid in conjunction with deposit contribution and Affinity. [^] £1,000 (incl. VAT) additional saving available to eligible customers. Applicable to all KONA EV, IONIQ 5, IONIQ 6 & Tucson (HEV & PHEV) models only. Note: IONIQ 5 N and Tucson ICE / 48v are excluded from this campaign. Available to existing Hyundai Finance customers (new or used) taking a new car finance agreement (PCP/PML) via Hyundai Finance. Eligible customers must have settled a Hyundai Finance agreement up to 180 days before the registration date of their new vehicle. Settled vehicle must be a Hyundai. Existing Contract Hire customers are not eligible for this campaign. Hyundai Motor UK Ltd is a credit broker and not a lender, and will only make introductions to Hyundai Finance, RH2 9AQ. Hyundai Motor UK Ltd is an appointed representative of Product Partnerships Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN: 626349). Hyundai Motor UK Limited, Birchwood Building, Springfield Drive, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7LP.

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BYD + EV = 1

You may not have heard of them, but this is a manufacturer you need to watch very closely.

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD – Build Your Dreams – sold more electric cars in the final quarter of 2023 than Elon Musk’s Tesla company.

Latest figures show that BYD shifted 526,000 battery-only cars in the final three months of last year, while Tesla sold 484,500...which is still a decent amount, but it’s significant that a new entrant to the electric car market has hit the ground running and moved to number one.

Bit of background.

BYD was founded in 1995 in the Chinese city of Shenzhen...but it didn’t start life as a car manufacturer. It kicked off by making the sort of rechargeable batteries found in stuff like smartphones, laptops etc. This gave the company an immediate advantage when, in 2002, they bought a state-owned car manufacturer. The batteries which are fitted to electric cars are vastly expensive...making your own keeps costs to a minimum. BYD even produces its own motors and semiconductors.

So, like a lot of car firms that first arrive on our shores, the one thing that sells them is the price. It’s the classic ‘you get a lot of car for your money.’ Just ask SKODA, Hyundai, MG, Nissan and KIA for example. However, it’s important that the product moves with the times which is why other firms like Lada and Proton disappeared.

And it’s also why BYD needs to keep improving its cars.

So, this is the latest offering from BYD... the Seal...which comes hot on the heels of their first car, the family-sized Atto 3 SUV and, more recently, compact Dolphin hatchback.

The big difference is that the Seal is aimed at more up-market products such as the Kia EV6, Hyundai Ioniq 6, Polestar 2, Tesla Model 3 and Beemers like the i4. It won’t be the biggest seller in the BYD armoury, but it shows intent.

If you go by looks alone, we reckon the BYD Seal is already off to a flyer.

Under the sleek body you’ll find the same platform as the Atto and Dolphin, but the battery is different, increasing in size to 82.5kWh. If you go for the single-motor Seal, the rear wheels are the ones which are driven. You can also go for a dual motor version which gives you all-wheel drive.



Power outputs are healthy. The single motor BYD Seal Design model gets 309bhp which means a 0-60 time of 5.9 seconds and the potential for 354 miles. The dual motor BYD Seal Excellence gets 523bhp and a 0-60 time of 3.8 seconds. BYD reckon that both models will easily exceed 300 miles on a full

charge (354 miles for the Design model and 323 for Excellence). If you find a rapid 150kWh charger, you can charge from 30% to 80% in around 24 minutes.

£45,695 (Feb '24) gets you into the single motor Seal. Add a further £3k for the AWD Excellence model. A cheaper version, probably called Comfort, will arrive later this year.

The interior is dominated by a huge 15.6-inch touchscreen. Its party trick is that it rotates. Okay, this may seem like a gimmick but it’s handy when switching from adjusting climate and audio to giving you a landscape view for the sat nav. It works well, but as with a



lot of infotainment gadgets, there are too many sub menus to scroll through. Perhaps familiarity will make things easier to find. The driver display screen is excellent...crystal clear.

There's no doubting that the interior has a seriously premium look and feel. It's better than the Tesla 3. Comfy too, although the sloping roofline does eat into the rear headroom slightly. The panoramic glass roof is really smart.

Out on the road you have a choice of Eco, Normal, Sport or Snow driver settings. The first thing you realise is that once you get over the slingshot performance of the Excellence model,

the cheaper Design version is just as good to drive...and cheaper. Both come fully loaded with kit and both are really good to drive. The ride is surprisingly cushy and quiet. If you hit Sport mode it sharpens the steering and brakes but, to be honest, we just left it in Normal and let the car look after everything.

The biggest compliment you can give the BYD Seal is that it feels as though it was designed for the European market. It really is that good.

And because BYD produces so much of the car in-house, it is predicted that if you order a car from the BYD factory, you should have it on your driveway

within a matter of weeks as opposed to several months from most other manufacturers.

Oh, and if you want everyone to know that you're in the quick Seal...not a problem. The 3.8 seconds 0-60 time can be found on the boot lid badging...BYD SEAL 3.8S.

Bearing in mind that BYD is still a newcomer to the electric car market in Europe, the Seal already shows that this is a company to watch very closely. The established brands won't admit it, but they're concerned. The BYD Seal really is that good.

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E-CLASS IS A CLASS ACT

300e version is top of the class



It's highly likely that a decent chunk of you reading this will be company car drivers. A lot of you will be able to follow the 'traditional' Audi, BMW, Jaguar, Mercedes route. Lucky old you.



However, there is one of group people that you need to have on your side.

The company accountants.

We have an answer which will keep everyone happy.

Try the new Mercedes E-Class and head for the 300e which uses PHEV petrol / hybrid power.

Mercedes reckon the 300e can manage 71 miles on a fully charged battery. If you have a daily commute of, say, 50 miles, trundling along in traffic for the majority of the time, this could be a handy saving because you'll get to work and back on battery power alone. Plug in the 300e when you get home and you'll have a fully recharged battery ready for the morning. Even better if you have a charger at work.

You get an extra dollop of power because the 206bhp 2.0 litre petrol engine now has a 131bhp electric motor to join the party. 0-60 comes up in a shade over 6 seconds...top speed is 147mph. You can do up to 87mph on battery power alone.

As for economy, obviously if you can use the PHEV facility to its full extent,



you'll hardly use any petrol. You can even switch the car to EV mode, but on longer journeys we still managed a return of almost 60mpg which, bearing in mind the size and weight of this car, is seriously good going. The battery will also replenish itself thanks to regenerative braking.

Company car drivers will be pleased to note that the 300e has very attractive 5 per cent BiK rates.

Of course, having an economical, roomy, fully loaded exec car is also hugely attractive for private buyers although the price of £68,020 (Feb 24) will scare off some folk.

Step inside and you can instantly see

why the Mercedes E-Class is viewed as a slightly smaller S-Class.

The central display is 14.5-inch screen which melds with the optional 12.3-inch screen in front of the passenger. There's also a 12.3-inch screen in front of the driver.

The sat nav is incredibly accurate and tells you which lane to shift into. There's even the chance to have your own private disco thanks to the optional, and brilliant, sound system which makes the ambient lighting pulse to the rhythm of the music. How cool is that?

Out on the road, the E-Class 300e does what the E-Class does best...it wafts along. The battery is keen to do all of the work, but everything is so quiet and seamless that when the engine joins in you invariably need to check the rev counter to see if it's running or not.

The Mercedes E-Class 300e offers the perfect combination of relaxed, long distance cruising and economical day to day commuting.

Which, for business users, is music to their ears.



2024 GETS OFF TO A WINNING START FOR MG

MG collects What Car? awards...as usual

2024 is shaping-up to be another successful year for MG and there are some really interesting new products in the pipeline.



hatchback the 'Best Small Family Car' title.

The performance-focused XPower, which can sprint from 0-62mph in 3.8 seconds courtesy of a 429bhp punch from the 64kWh battery and a 4-wheel drive system. This MG4 version was highlighted as being 'Best Electric Hot Hatch. We drove it recently. You know this is a rather different MG when you discover in the blurb that the central infotainment screen has a programme called 'track mode display' which features data that analyses the car's performance, power distribution, speed / time, G-Force, steering angle, and throttle.

Blimey...we were only going to the tip.

Commenting on the MG4's win, Steve Huntingford, editor at What Car? said: "The MG4 is very well priced, yet this hasn't been achieved by cutting corners. Instead, it's a practical electric family car with a good range and neat handling that just happens to be great value. All things considered, we reckon it's one of the best cars to ever wear the MG badge."

These latest awards see the MG4 continue its winning ways, having secured more than 30 awards since it

was launched in the autumn of 2022. The MG4 also ended 2023 as the second best-selling electric car in the UK.

But What Car? weren't finished there. They named the MG5 EV as 'Best Electric Estate', and the MG ZS EV as 'Best Small Electric SUV for Value', both retaining their titles from last year. Impressive huh?

What about new models? Well we reckon one of the most anticipated cars of 2024 is the MG Cyberster. It's due to arrive in the UK during the summer and will therefore see a return to sports car production for the iconic MG brand since the TF was killed off 13 years ago.

The Cyberster is a fully electric drop top. Figures suggest a 4-second 0-60 dash from the 400+bhp motor which drives the rear wheels. The fabric roof raises and lowers in 10 seconds. Oh and the doors operate in a scissor fashion. No definite idea of prices yet, but we reckon it'll start at around £50k.

In other words, MG is a company to watch very closely.

In terms of how good their cars are, don't just take our word for it...take note of what the guys at What Car? are saying.

The all-electric MG4 EV has been named 'Small Electric Car of the Year' and 'Best Electric Hot Hatch' at the 2024 What Car? Car of the Year awards. This is the car's second consecutive success, defending its title from the 2023 awards.

The What Car? team has recognised the MG4 as offering excellent value for money as well as a broad range of models for buyers to choose between. This includes the accessible MG4 SE, and long-distance MG4 Extended Range, which have earned the electric

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POLESTAR – TO INFINITY AND BEYOND.



In my line of business, cars come and go on a regular basis. I was seriously sorry to see this one leave.





entry level car will be perfect. The range figures are provided by Polestar, but on a chilly day with a fair amount of motorway driving, we still managed 310 miles on a full charge.

The clincher is that the Polestar 2 can achieve these impressive range and performance figures while also being effortless to drive. You can even have one-pedal driving because the regen is nicely weighted and allows you to bring the car to a standstill. It takes a bit of getting used to but once you've got the hang of it, you'll wonder why all electric cars don't have the same facility.

The ride is a shade on the firm side at town speeds, but it's never uncomfortable.

Oh and don't bother hunting for the stop-start button. There isn't one. The keyless entry works really well so the car knows when you arrive and depart. It's turns itself on and off. Climb in, select D, dab the brakes, and you're ready to go. At your destination, hit P, and get out. Simple.

The interior, like the exterior, is smart and understated. There's a genuine look and feel of quality...it's better than the Tesla. Everything is dominated by the iPad sized centre screen. It looks good and works well. The 'Hey Google' voice assistant was pretty good too. The seats are comfy and there's plenty of room in the back, Boot space is about average for any hatchback of this size. The charging cables are under the bonnet.

The Polestar 2 is impressive. It looks great, drives well, and has excellent levels of performance and range. Unless you really must have the ultimate in terms of performance, we'd stick with the entry level standard battery, single motor model although if you do a lot of miles, the long range version might be worth opting for. It's very quiet...only a tiny amount of motor whine...comfy and well equipped.

Bearing in mind this is still one of the early models to come from Polestar, we can't wait to see future cars but, for the moment, the Polestar 2 will do very nicely thanks.

It was a Polestar 2.

You can get various levels of power and performance. There are standard and long range versions...single and dual motor...and there's even a Performance Pack model.

The entry level model (single motor, standard range, rear drive) develops 268bhp and has a potential range of 339 miles. 0-60mph takes 6.2 seconds. Price is £44,950 (Feb 24).

Next up is the long range version which can now manage a seriously useful 406 miles. Power climbs to 299 bhp; 0-60 drops to 5.9 seconds. Add £4k.

If you want to scare the life out of other drivers, head for the dual motor, all-wheel drive Polestar 2 which develops 416 bhp and can hit 60 mph from standstill in 4.3 seconds. Add another £4k. Range is 368 miles.

And then finally, there's the Performance Pack which gives you 469 bhp and 0-60 mph in 4.0 seconds. £57,950.

All have the same top speed...127mph. If you use a rapid charger, you'll go from 10-80 per cent charge in about half an hour.

Okay, it's very tempting to point in the direction of the dual motor flying machines because those figures are eye-catching, but for most of you the





IT'S PLUG AND PLAY AT VAUXHALL

Electric cars are Vauxhall's real deal

Whether we like it or not, electric is the future of motoring in this country. You can no longer buy a conventionally powered new car once we hit the year 2035.

However, Vauxhall is ahead of the game and is making electric available on more and more of its cars...including some of their most popular models like the Corsa, Mokka and Astra. In fact, by the end of this year every model in the Vauxhall range will have an all-electric option.

Let's start with the Corsa because a new model has been launched. Its design brings it in line with most of the range... notably the 'vizor' strip which goes along the front of the car below the

bonnet lip. We think it looks smart... even a tad sporty perhaps.

You'll also find new tech inside and a new line-up in terms of power options.

Diesel has been given the heave-ho, so your options are petrol (1.2 litres) and electric. The 3-cylinder petrol engine comes with a choice of 74 bhp, 99 bhp or 128bhp. All are expected to achieve around 55 mpg.

If you prefer electric power, there are two battery options...134 bhp output which gives you 222 estimated miles or 154 bhp which goes further to 256 miles. If you use a rapid charger, you can go from zero - 80 per cent in around half an hour. A typical wallbox charger takes about 7 hours.

As for trim, Vauxhall keeps it simple. The new Corsa is available in just 3 trims...Design, GS and Ultimate. Most customers go for the top two trims. And here's the good news...the Corsa Electric is available for a £369 deposit.

If you prefer an SUV but want battery power, take a look at the Mokka Electric. As with the electric versions of the Astra and Corsa, it's good to drive and looks seriously smart. The range of 208 miles will suit most drivers...so will the 30 minute charging time up to 80%. The battery produces 134bhp which makes the Mokka Electric feel really nimble. The 0-60 time of 8.7 seconds feels quicker because you have 100% of the power available instantly...no need to build revs or change gears.

Want to go further?...check out the long-range version which has just arrived. It gets a bigger battery, more power and more range. Power rises to 154bhp and the range climbs to 252 miles...handy for those holiday trips. The purchase price only increases by around £600 so it's the one we'd go for.

As with the Corsa Electric, there's a really good deal on offer for the Mokka Electric...£289 deposit and £290 per month.

And what about the latest Vauxhall Astra? The new generation Astra arrived two years ago, and it's now been joined by an all-electric model. You can choose from a 5-door hatchback or 5-door Sports Tourer (that's an estate in non-Vauxhall speak!)

You can also take advantage of an attractive deal too. Astra Electric is available with a £349 deposit and payments of £350 per month.

Have you driven an electric car? No? The best idea is go to for a test drive...we think you're in for a big surprise.



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There's a Vauxhall for everyone

Vauxhall Corsa

1.2 Design 5dr Petrol

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48 monthly rentals
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6,000 miles per annum



Vauxhall Mokka

1.2 Turbo 100 Design 5dr Petrol

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£219 per month
48 monthly rentals
Initial rental £2,624
6,000 miles per annum



Vauxhall Astra

1.2 Turbo Design 5dr Petrol

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Fuel economy and CO2 results for the Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.2 75PS. Combined mpg (l/100km): 51.4 (5.5) to 52.3 (5.4). CO2 emissions: 121 - 122 g/km. Vauxhall Mokka 1.2 Turbo 100 Design. Combined mpg (l/100km): 50.5 (5.5) to 51.3 (5.6). CO2 emissions: 124 - 125 g/km. Vauxhall Astra 1.2 Turbo Design. Combined mpg (l/100km): 52.3 (5.4) to 52.3 (5.4). CO2 emissions: 123 g/km. WLTP Figures shown are for comparison purposes and should only be compared to the fuel consumption and CO2 values of other cars tested to the same technical standard. The fuel consumption achieved, and CO2 produced, in real world conditions will depend upon a number of factors including, but not limited to: the accessories fitted (pre and post registration); variations in weather; driving styles and vehicle load. The WLTP (Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicles Test Procedure) is used to measure fuel consumption and CO2 figures. The CO2 figures display a range to reflect the highest value for the highest emitting version with all available options added, through to a minimum value to represent the lowest emitting version in standard specification. For more information contact your local Vauxhall Retailer.

Personal Contract Hire on Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Design 5dr Petrol Hatchback. Initial rental £2,382, plus 48 months at £199, 6,000 miles per year. Vauxhall Mokka 1.2 Turbo Design 5dr Petrol Hatchback. Initial rental £2,624, plus 48 months at £219, 6,000 miles per year. Vauxhall Astra 1.2 Turbo Design 5dr Petrol Hatchback. Initial rental £2,456, plus 48 months at £273, 6,000 miles per year. Finance subject to status. T&Cs and exclusions apply. Applicants must be 18+. Guarantee may be required. Price shown includes Vehicle Excise Duty throughout the duration of the agreement plus 1 year's roadside assistance, beginning on the date of registration. Excess mileage and vehicle condition charges may apply. You will not own the vehicle. Finance by Stellantis Financial Services, RH11QA. Offer applies to private individuals & business users (1-49 units). Orders from 15th February to 19th April 2024. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time.

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AVENGER MAKES A BIT OF HISTORY

(and you're showing your age if you can remember the Hillman Avenger)

So, why is the car you see here making a bit of history? Simple. The Avenger is the first 100% electric car to be made by the US car giant, Jeep. You can also get a petrol or hybrid version...but the one we're trying is the battery driven model, although it's worth pointing out that the 1.2 litre 100bhp petrol Avenger costs £23,600 (Feb 24) while the 158bhp electric comes in at a much more expensive £34,800. Do the maths.

From the front in particular, you can tell this is a Jeep straightaway. Underneath the smart exterior, Jeep has reached into the Stellantis parts bin. Jeep is now part of the group which also includes Peugeot, Citroen, Fiat and Vauxhall.

The electric Avenger gets a predicted range of 246 miles with power going to the front wheels. Shock...this Jeep doesn't have all-wheel drive so better

skip the idea of doing some serious off-roading and stick to the tarmac or wait until the end of the year when a 4x4 arrives. Having said that, the Avenger does get Snow, Mud and Sand settings to join the usual array of Normal, Eco and Sport. The slightly lofty ride height will help you cross a rutted track and the clever traction control gadgetry will keep you going over loose or soggy ground. If you drive in town traffic and use the Eco mode, Jeep reckon you'll get close to 370 miles. That could be optimistic in 'real world' driving though.

Charging 20-80% takes around 8 hours on a typical wallbox, but if you can find a rapid charger you'll get that sort of top-up in about 25 minutes.

Out on the road, the Avenger drives very nicely indeed. The ride is smooth and controlled. The light steering makes it a nimble car to drive around town and the boxy dimensions make it easy to place on the road or when parking. It's not a flying machine...0-60 takes 9.6 seconds...but for the majority of the time, it feels adequately powered.

Three trims are available...Longitude, Altitude and Summit...each one adds about two grand to the price. All use the same power plant. If you go for the mid-level Altitude trim, you'll get all of the essentials...DAB radio, powered tailgate, rear parking sensors, air con, adaptive cruise control, and Apple CarPlay



and Android Auto which allow you to mirror your phone's sat nav through the central 10.25-inch touchscreen which, incidentally, has clear and responsive graphics. Overall the interior is a plus point. It looks smart.

The problem with the Avenger being one of the smaller cars in its class is the rear legroom. If you have a 6-foot tall driver, it's a bit tight in the back. Children will be fine. You have loads of storage space though.

As electric cars go, the Jeep Avenger is worth a serious look if you want something that fits the Jeep mould and can double-up as a family holdall, school runabout, and cope with the occasional trip onto light off-road territory. It looks good and stands out from an increasingly anonymous crowd. For families who like the hunky look of a Jeep and want to go down the route of an electric car, it should fit the bill perfectly.



HYBRID, ELECTRIC OR PETROL.

The choice is yours at Honda.

It's interesting to note that some manufacturers are going down the 100 per cent electric route for every single car in their range.



Although that'll delight the eco community, it won't suit a lot of drivers in this country for the simple reason that they don't have sufficiently decent access to the charging network.

Honda is playing it safe and giving you the option of a bit of everything. Sensible move.

If you DO want to go all-electric, Honda has a couple of options...the family-sized e:Ny1 and the Honda e which is terrific for those of you who mainly do local and city driving. The Honda e is one of the cutest cars around...looks brilliant... good to drive too.

If you like the size of the e:Ny1 but aren't sure about 100% electric...no problem.

Go for the HR-V self-charging hybrid which comes with a 1.5 litre petrol engine gives you around 52mpg. It looks really smart and comes with loads of kit. If you do a lot of driving in heavy traffic, you'll waft along in silence as the battery does all of the work and the engine takes a break.

The hybrid set-up of the HR-V is very similar to those found in the Jazz, ultra-popular Civic, CR-V and the recently launched ZR-V.

The ZR-V fits in between the Honda CR-V and larger HR-V. It's basically an SUV version of the Honda Civic, which is no bad thing because the Civic is an excellent car. The oily bits are the same...a 2.0 litre petrol engine with a CVT gearbox. Economy is excellent with 60 mpg attainable. The technology is clever because, unlike most hybrids where the engine is powering the wheels and only boosts the battery when you decelerate or brake, the Honda ZR-V engine is really there to charge the battery which drives the wheels via two electric motors. For most of the time the ZR-V drives like an electric car with instant power and silent running...but



there's always the petrol engine for extra power and extra reassurance. There's no range anxiety with the Honda self-charging hybrids.

The ZR-V is a great choice for families. The interior is really smart and it's well equipped too.

The ZR-V has a fresh new face for Honda...same reliability, value and attention to detail though. Oh...and Honda cars hang onto their value like a limpet. Go and check them out. You can also take advantage of some terrific incentives including finance and servicing packages available until 31 March 2024.

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IT'S HERE.

Volvo's smallest car is a big deal.

This is an important car for Volvo... please welcome the Volvo EX30.

First and foremost, like many things in life, it comes down to finance. With a starting price of £33,795, the EX30 is one of the most attractively priced electric cars available. It'll do well for the simple reason that people can afford it.

Secondly, it opens the door to a new sort of buyer because this is one of the smallest cars that Volvo has ever built. If you are looking for a compact hatchback / crossover, it should certainly be on your shopping list.

And thirdly...it's a Volvo.

Add everything together and you end up with a well-priced, versatile electric car which comes with a premium badge.

It can't fail.

Let's do some number crunching.

There are three powertrains. The headline grabber is the 422bhp twin motor version which gives you all-wheel drive and a 0-60mph time of 3.6 seconds. Yikes. It's the quickest Volvo... ever.



However, even the entry level EX30 is no slouch. The 268bhp output means you can reach 60mph in 5.7 seconds.

There's also another 268bhp power option but it comes with a bigger battery to allow more range. Performance is about the same. It'll probably turn out to be the most popular version. We reckon it's worth the additional £4750.

What about range?

Volvo estimate that the entry level EX30 will manage 213 miles, but go for the same car with the bigger battery, and it jumps to 295 miles. In other words, if you have a short-ish daily commute or need the EX30 for regular chores like the school run and shopping, the EX30 with the smaller battery will suffice. However, the version with a bigger battery gives you more options.

Rapid charging times for all EX30s are around 26 minutes from 10-80 per cent.

There are two equipment grades - Plus and Ultra, although others are in the pipeline.

In terms of kit, Plus specification includes 12.3-inch touchscreen display, two-zone climate control, Harman Kardon premium sound system with dashboard soundbar (there are no



speakers in the doors...the soundbar runs along the top of the fascia) front and rear parking sensors, rear camera, heated front seats and heated steering wheel.

Additional features on Ultra grade include 360-degree camera, fixed panoramic sunroof, dark-tinted rear windows, a self-parking system, 20-inch alloy wheels, and power-adjustable front seats.

And if you want to impress your friends tell them that a quarter of the aluminium used in your new Volvo EX30 has been recycled, as has 17 per cent of the steel and plastic.

In other words, this is one of the most cost-effective electric cars in the UK. Throw in the fact that it's got Volvo's build quality and reputation for safety plus a decent level of standard kit, and you can see why it'll be so popular. Oh... and if you want an EX30 with a bit of attitude, there's a Cross Country model on the way later in the year.

For more information
[Click Here](#)



V O L V O



298 Pure electric range*

26.5 Minute ~80% charged**

15.7 kWh Energy consumption***

3.6 Second 0-62mph

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EX30. Big electric performance in a small package.

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£396 per month with a £5,500 deposit

The fully electric Volvo EX30 is designed to deliver a big car experience with a highseating position, refined interior design, smart interior storage, Google built-in* and the safety technology you'd expect from a Volvo.

With clean lines, a dynamic appearance and confident expression, the smallest ever Volvo SUV makes a big impression on both high streets and highways.

We've crafted four nature-inspired interiors for the EX30. They blend beautifully colour-coordinated upholsteries and décor made from renewable and recycled materials.

Simpler and more customisable driver controls and displays help make driving less complicated and more intuitive.

Get in touch to find out more and book a test ride to experience the EX30 for yourself.

Stoneacre

www.stoneacre.co.uk

Stoneacre Volvo Newcastle

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

Stoneacre Volvo Sunderland

Riverbank Road, Sunderland,
Tyne and Wear SR5 3JJ
0191 516 2800

Stoneacre Volvo Stockton

Preston Farm Bus' Park, Avro Close,
Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3SG
01642 673251

PCP financial example on the EX30 Single Motor Plus

Cash Price	£33,795.00	Amount To Finance	£28,295.00	Annual Mileage	6000	APR	9.9%
Customer Deposit	£5,500.00	Interest Payable	£7,786.11	Duration of Agreement	48 months	Fixed Rate	5.13%
Monthly Payment	£396.57	Total Amount Payable	£41,081.11	Optional Final Payment	£16,545.75	Excess Mileage Charge	14.9p per mile

*298 mile electric range is according to WLTP driving cycles and real-world range may vary. **26.5 minute to 80% Fast charging under optimal charging conditions. Charging times are dependent on factors such as outdoor temperature, current battery temperature, charging equipment, battery condition and car condition. *** The figures are preliminary and derive from estimates and calculations performed by Volvo Cars for EX30 and these outcomes are not guaranteed. The driving range and energy consumption under real conditions vary depending on driving behaviour and other external factors. Vehicle certification pending.

Cash Price £19,121.93, Deposit £1,266.23, Term 48 months, Payment £323.72, Amount of credit £17,855.70, Fixed Interest per annum 6.46%, Representative APR 11.36%, Total Charge for credit £6,194.43, Final Payment £8,511.57, Option to purchase fee £399.00, Total Amount Payable (Incl. Deposit, charge for credit, final payment & purchase fee) £25,715.36. All offers are subject to terms and conditions. Finance provided subject to status, written details are available on request. Model shown is for illustration purposes only. Ask for details. Cars may be in group stock. Stoneacre operates as an independent finance introducer from a panel of lenders. Offers are correct at the time of transmission but may be subject to change. Subject to your status, if after signing the Purchase Offer you sign a Finance Agreement with a Finance Company in relation to the vehicle, the terms of the finance agreement will replace this supplier agreement. The standard terms of the finance agreement will be stated on the finance agreement form that you will be asked to sign. Decidebloom Ltd t/a Stoneacre is authorised and regulated by the financial conduct authority. Our FCA number is 308726. You can verify this by using the FCA website or by contacting the FCA at 0845 606 9966. Subject to terms and conditions. We are a credit broker and a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders and their finance products. We will provide details of products available, but no advice or recommendation will be made. You must decide whether the finance product is right for you. We do not charge you a fee for our services. Lenders will pay commission to us (either a fixed fee or a fixed percentage of the amount you borrow) for introducing you to them, this may be calculated in reference to a variable factor such as (but not limited to) the vehicle age, your credit score and the amount you are borrowing. Different lenders may pay different commissions for such introductions. Offer exclusive to Volvo EX30 Single Motor Plus.



DACIA DOUBLE!

For more information [Click Here](#)



Sandero and Jogger win big at the Auto Express New Car Awards

And they've picked up a gong for a car which is due in the UK very shortly.

Dacia was a double winner at the most recent Auto Express New Car Awards.

The Dacia Sandero was crowned 'Supermini of the Year' in recognition of its simple yet effective formula...and the seven-seat Dacia Jogger was named 'Family Car of the Year' for the second consecutive year, impressing the judges with its day-to-day usability and clever packaging.

The Dacia Sandero was praised by Auto Express for its unbeatable package, while the Jogger took the highly-coveted family car award after impressing the judges with its excellent usability and innovative design.

Steve Fowler, Editor-in-Chief at Auto Express, said: "We're massive admirers of what Dacia is doing right now - it's no wonder other car makers are watching it so closely! The Jogger is the perfect family car - brilliantly thought out by people who clearly know what family buyers want (and what they don't). It's good to drive and even better to live with on a day-to-day basis - a clever car that we really love. And the Sandero proves that there's still plenty of life in the Supermini yet. As others abandon the segment, Dacia is doubling down on a brilliantly simple, effective and efficient small car that we know buyers



will love."

And if that wasn't enough, Dacia has even won an award for a car which will only arrive in the UK in the summer... but it's worth waiting for if you are considering going electric.

It's called the Dacia Spring and it's been named as 'Bargain of the Year' at the TopGear.com Awards 2023. It was singled out for its usability, fun drive and cost of ownership.

Now you're probably wondering how the TopGear.com guys managed to drive it. Simple... the Spring has been on sale across the rest of Europe for a couple of years...and it's been a massive success and is likely to shake-up the 100 per cent electric car market when it arrives here because, although nothing's been confirmed as yet, it could cost under £20,000.

How on Earth can Dacia produce an

electric car at this sort of price? Well how about only fitting a small-ish battery for starters.

The thinking behind the Spring is that a lot of potential electric car owners want something purely for town work and the odd rare longer trip. Think of the school run, shopping, short work commute, going to the tip, plus the occasional journey to see relatives or popping to the beach.

The range will be around 140 miles which, for most people, will get them through the working week. 0-60mph is fairly leisurely at 13 seconds, but who needs speed in town traffic?

And lastly, rather than nominating a particular model in the Dacia range, Dacia retains its title of 'Best Value Brand' at the Auto Trader New Car Awards. This was hardly surprising bearing in that Dacia had also walked off with the same award in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022

Sandero Stepway was also awarded 'Best Value New Car', with the robust crossover praised for its equipment and versatility. Dacia is no stranger to winning this category because the Duster scooped the award last year and, now that the new Duster is here, you can expect even more awards to be heading into the Dacia trophy cabinet.

DACIA

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A good deal. Better.

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For more information
Click Here



WINGROVE – THE NAME FOR PEUGEOT ON TYNESIDE

Drive away the new E-208 for just a £1 deposit

Yes, that's correct. Go to either the Wingrove Newcastle Peugeot dealership on the West Road in Newcastle or the stunning Wingrove Silverlink Peugeot site in Wallsend and you really can take advantage of this incredible offer.

And it'll be joined by a new 208 as Your payments will be £349 per month and you will also, in effect, get a £4000 discount which Peugeot is calling a 'switch grant'...helping you switch to all-electric from petrol or diesel.

The Peugeot E-208 has been a massive success. It not only looks fabulous, it is also great to drive and seriously economical. There are two different power outputs available. The standard E-208 battery delivers 138bhp, but we'd for the bigger battery which ups the power to 158bhp and stretches the range to 248 miles.

The bigger battery comes with GT trim. Okay the price rises by around £3600 but we think it's worth it for the additional range. You also get full LED headlights and taillights, keyless entry

which saves you having to fumble for keys in the lashing rain; really smart 17-inch alloys and a reversing camera. It all adds up to make your Peugeot E-208 feel very special.

The E-208 is one of our favourite electric cars, and with the sort of deal available at Wingrove Peugeot, it makes a great package, stunning.

For more information and a test drive, either pop into the dealerships or call 0191 274 2000 for the Newcastle site or 0191 295 3000 for Wallsend.

Wingrove Exclusive Offer

£1.00 deposit & **£349.00** per month
with a **£4,000** electric switch grant*

New E-208 Active Electric 51kWh 156

Agueda Yellow, 'Tri-material 'Pneuma'
and 'Rimini' cloth

VEHICLE OTR PRICE:	£31,153.00
DEPOSIT:	£4,001.00
TOTAL ADVANCE:	£27,152.00
47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS:	£347.00
TOTAL INTEREST:	£0.00
TOTAL CREDIT CHARGE:	£0.00
Final Purchase Payment:	£10,749.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE:	£ 31,153.00
APR:	0%
ANNUAL MILEAGE:	6000
Excess Mileage Costs (Incl VAT)	10p Per Mile



Wingrove Silverlink
Citroën, DS & Peugeot
Kittiwake Close, Silverlink Park, Wallsend, NE28 9ND
0191 295 3000



WINGROVE
MOTOR COMPANY
EST.1925

*Subject to terms and conditions and finance acceptance



THE NEW HOME FOR VAUXHALL IN NEWCASTLE

Bristol Street Motors has opened a new Vauxhall dealership in Newcastle.

The site, on the Westerhope Interchange on Stamfordham Road, will be the new home of Bristol Street Motors Newcastle Vauxhall, having moved from their previous base on Scotswood Road. The

dealership has received a substantial renovation worth over £600,000.

So, new site...but the same friendly faces will be there, headed by General Manager Liam Fenwick.



And of course you can expect the same outstanding levels of customer service.

The full range of Vauxhall's exciting models will be on show including the all new Corsa, Astra, Mokka, Crossland and Grandland, together with a range of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Vauxhall is one of the leading producers of electric vehicles. They're also helping to increase the access and availability of electric chargers via their Electric Streets of Britain campaign, which aims to support those without off-street parking to charge their vehicles. Recent research showed that 40% of households in the UK do not have off-street parking for charging their electric vehicles.

Robert Forrester, Chief Executive of Bristol Street Motors, said: "Our continued growth is a testament to our team's unwavering commitment to service excellence and our loyal customer base. This investment not only bolsters our offerings but also greatly benefits the local community; it is fantastic to see this excellent location in action once again.



“We look forward to welcoming new and existing customers through the doors of Bristol Street Motors Newcastle Vauxhall’s new home.”

These are exciting times for Vauxhall. By the end of this year, every model in the Vauxhall range will have the option of 100 per cent battery power...and that includes their vans. At the moment you can go fully electric with the Corsa, Astra, Astra Sports Tourer, Mokka and Grandland plus the Combo Life Electric and Vivaro Life Electric vans.

You can also expect to see the return of the Frontera name to the Vauxhall line-up. It will, in effect, take the place of the Vauxhall Crossland and, yes, it will be available with an all-electric power option.

Of course, the internal combustion engine is still going strong and is more economical and eco-friendly than ever. In fact there are currently some terrific deals available. For example the Corsa petrol models are available with prices starting from £199 per month PCH and

Mokka petrol from £229 per month PCH. Deals are available across the range.

If you prefer to look for a used car, not a problem because as well as the cars available at the Bristol Street Motors Vauxhall Newcastle dealership, the sales team can search the entire Bristol Street database to find the car you’re after... and don’t forget, it’s not just Vauxhall’s which are available...you’ll find a wide choice of makes and models from other manufacturers too.

The best idea is for you to pop into the dealership and have a chat with Liam and his team. They’ll find you the new Vauxhall or used car which suits your requirements.

YOUR ELECTRIC SWITCH. SORTED.



For more information **Click Here**

Corsa Electric Design

11kW 136PS

Personal Contract Hire

£329 per month
59 monthly rentals
Initial rental **£3948**
6,000 miles per annum

Mokka Electric Design

100kW/50kWh 5dr Auto

Personal Contract Hire

£349 per month
59 monthly rentals
Initial rental **£349**
6,000 miles per annum



Vauxhall Newcastle
244 - 246 Stamfordham Road, Westerhope,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE5 2LA

03300 960 851
bristolstreet.co.uk/vauxhall

Fuel economy and CO2 results for the Vauxhall Corsa Electric 100kW (136PS). Mpg (l/100km): N/A. CO2 emissions: 0g/km. Electric range up to 209 miles (WLTP). Fuel economy and CO2 results for the Vauxhall Mokka Electric 100kW (136PS). Mpg (l/100km): N/A. CO2 emissions: 0g/km. Electric range up to 209 miles (WLTP). The range and electric consumption figures mentioned are preliminary and comply with the WLTP test procedure, on the basis of which new vehicles are type approved from 1 September 2018. EG type approval and Certificate of Conformity are not yet available. The preliminary values might differ from official final type approval data. These may vary depending on actual conditions of use and on different factors such as: speed, thermal comfort on board the vehicle, driving style and outside temperature. The charging time depends in particular on the power of the charger on board the vehicle, the charging cable and the type and power of the charging station used. Please contact your dealer for further information.

Personal Contract Hire on Vauxhall Corsa Electric Design 11kW 136PS. Initial rental £3,948, plus 59 months at £329 inclusive of Graphical Grey Paint, 6,000 miles per year and Vauxhall Mokka Electric Design 11kW 136PS. Initial rental £349, plus 59 months at £349 inclusive of Brilliant Paint, 6,000 miles per year. Applicants must be 18+. Price shown includes Vehicle Excise Duty throughout the duration of the agreement plus 1 year's roadside assistance, beginning on the date of registration. Excess mileage and vehicle condition charges may apply. You will not own the vehicle. Finance by Stellantis Financial Services, RHI 1QA. Offer applies to private individuals & business users (1-49 units). Orders from 15th February to 19th April 2024. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time.

We are a credit broker and not a lender. Finance is subject to status and finance company acceptance. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders and their finance products. We will typically receive a commission from the lender, as either a fixed fee or a fixed percentage on the amount you borrow. The commission we earn does not change by the type of finance. A guarantee may be required. The finance rate will vary dependent of customer personal circumstances for in dealership purchases. Library image for illustration purposes only. Bristol Street Motors Vauxhall 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.

STAYCATION SLIP-UPS.

Checks that drivers forget before a holiday road trip

Okay, you're probably reading whilst it's hammering down with rain and the thermometer is probably showing a pathetic 8 or 9 degrees.

Thankfully, summer is on the way... hopefully it'll be better than we had in 2023. Did we really have a summer?

And of course that means there is a decent chance that you'll be hopping into your car to go for a trip to the beach or perhaps for a longer staycation. Some of you may even be booked to take the Eurostar or ferry at Dover and getting ready to head off to the sunny climes of continental Europe.

However, research by ŠKODA UK finds motorists fail to perform basic checks before they hit the road for the summer break.

The list includes failing to check tyre pressures...not checking, oil, coolant and washer fluid levels...and what about breakdown cover and travel insurance?

Not only can poorly inflated tyres



reduce efficiency by around 3% or more, but under inflated tyres can reduce the ability of the car to brake or turn effectively. Further demonstrating a lack of road trip readiness, loads of motorists only check the fluid levels of their car less than once in every three months, with 5% not checking at all. Lower than necessary levels increase the risk of a breakdown and potentially serious damage to a car, a problem that could be exacerbated for the 18% of drivers who admitted to having have no roadside assistance



cover at all, leaving them at greater risk of being stranded.

Holiday-goers beware, failure to keep up with simple maintenance tasks such as topping up washer fluid or checking the wipers, not only risks safety on the road but can also result in a £100 on-the-spot fine or three points on your licence.

Away from the needs of the car, there are those of the occupants, and ŠKODA's data shows that 43% of drivers don't carry additional water in case of long delays or an emergency. More than half (52%) also forego keeping a first aid kit in their car.

So, here are some sensible tips to get your car ready for summer.

- 1. Inflate tyres.** Correctly inflated tyres means better fuel economy and a car that will accelerate, brake and turn as expected.
- 2. Tread carefully.** Not having the correct tyre tread depth puts you at risk of an accident and is illegal.
- 3. Pack high-visibility jackets.** Although not a legal requirement in the UK, there's no harm in keeping a number of high-vis jackets in the car just in case, to ensure that occupants are clearly visible to passing motorists in the event of a breakdown.
- 4. Double check fluid levels.** Ensure a car's coolant, oil and washer fluid levels are correct to reduce your chances of a breakdown and being fined for having an empty screen wash bottle.
- 5. Pack a first aid kit.** Always useful to have on hand.
- 6. Bring water.** Dehydration can cause fatigue and a dip in concentration levels, so have enough water for everyone in the car. Pack enough that there is plenty extra in case of lengthy traffic jams.
- 7. Check air conditioning.** Maintenance of the system is important. Before going away, ensure air conditioning doesn't need re-gassing, and that it is used regularly even if it isn't hot, as this will ensure the compressor and seals are well lubricated.
- 8. Take regular breaks.** Plan your journey ahead of time to so you can set off in good time and not rush, and add in a quick 15 minute break every two hours.



So there you go... some simple tips to make sure that you and your friends and family can have a safe, secure and trouble free motoring summer. All we need now is some sunshine. **Good luck.**

THESE ALLOYS ARE WHEELY GOOD

If there's one thing that makes your car look good...or terrible...it's the wheels.

Some of the worst are those plastic disc things which cover steel wheels. They generally either crack or end up lying on a grass verge somewhere. You fasten them onto the wheel with some garden wire or a few of those zip ties... apparently.

Alloys always look better...but they need to be smart.

They're not cheap so don't kerb them.

And make sure they're the right design and the right colour.

Silver is the most popular colour for the simple reason that the alloy is a grey / silver colour in any case. Silver also tends to work with most exterior colours.

But what if your wheels start to look scruffy. Have they been scraped? Have they discoloured?

And do you fancy a change of colour?

There is an answer. Go and speak to the guys at SEM Alloys in Sunderland. They're experts at alloy wheel refurbishment and they not only make your alloys look like new, they can also change them to any colour you fancy.

Karl Barnes and his SEM team have got over 40 years of experience in refurbishing metal. They blast the alloys and remove all of the dirt. If you have split rims, they'll dismantle the wheel and ensure that everything is refurbished.

And how about changing the colour? If you go onto their Facebook account,



you can see hundreds of before and after photos. Why not try matt black, metallic silver, gloss black, shadow chrome. There's even a selection of photos showing diamond orange wheels with silver holographic flakes. Wow.

They also have another really handy service. If one of your wheels is damaged and you need to head off on a journey, they'll provide you with a replacement. They've got a vast selection.



For more information
Click Here

Interested. Give SEM Alloys a call on 0191 548 0617 or pop into their workshops on the Southwick Industrial Estate, North Hyllon Road, Sunderland.

And check out their Facebook account too. Just put SEM Alloy Wheel Restoration Specialist into one of your search engines and you'll find it.



PEUGEOT E-208 LOOKING GOOD FOR ELECTRIC SAVINGS



For more information
Click Here

Hands up if you think this is one of the smartest-looking hatchbacks currently available.

Yup...thought so.

This latest Peugeot 208 arrived on our shores towards the end of last year, and included in the line-up for the first time is an all-electric version...the E-208. Petrol and hybrid models are also available.

The electric E-208 can reach up to 248 miles on a single charge. You can boost the battery from 20 to 80% in around 30 minutes using a rapid charger. A typical wallcharger will take about 4.5 hours. Plug in your E-208 when you get home and it'll be ready for the morning.

In terms of power, the E-208 gives you two options. There's an E-208 with a 50kWh battery which can produce 138bhp and give you a range 228 miles, or you can go for the slightly larger

51kWh battery which produces 158bhp and stretches your range to 248 miles.

0-60mph is roughly the same for both cars...8.1 seconds.

This is also the ideal car if you don't want everyone to know that you've taken the electric plunge. Apart from a different grille and the 'E' badge on the tailgate, there's no difference between the battery-powered car and the other 208 models.

Oh, and there's no exhaust pipe of course.

You also get to experience the stunning Peugeot i-Cockpit design. Rather than looking through the steering wheel at the dials, you peer over the top of the small wheel which is roughly the size of

a medium pizza. It's great.

As for trim, you can choose from E-Style or GT. No matter which one you go for, every Peugeot 208 is nicely kitted out ... comfortable...and fun to drive.

There are three driving modes...Sport for maximum performance...Normal... and Eco where priority is giving to the potential range. You can also alter the level of brake regeneration.

And if you move quickly, you can take advantage of a really attractive deal...4 years 0% finance and a 'Switch Grant' which gives you a £4,000 contribution towards the deposit.

Peugeot E-208.... fun with a capital 'E'.



SWITCH TO ELECTRIC

0% APR

NO MINIMUM DEPOSIT*

PLUS UP TO **£4,000** TOWARDS YOUR NEW CAR WITH THE SWITCH GRANT†

PEUGEOT 208

100kW E-Style 50kWh 5dr Auto Electric

The e-208, e-208 SUV and plug-in HYBRID Range economy & emissions figures (WLTP) Range: CO2-emission combined 0g/km. Electric range combined: 248 miles. This is a battery electric vehicle requiring mains electricity for charging. Zero emissions while driving. Electric range figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.



£349 Per Month

Peugeot Sunderland

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CALL 0330 017 1104 | bristolstreet.co.uk/peugeot



0% APR Personal Contract Purchase available on vehicles ordered between 04/01/2024 and 03/04/2024. Vehicles must be registered by 03/04/2024. Participating Retailers only. †Peugeot Switch Grant T&Cs. Offer applies only to the New E-208, New E-208S, New E-308, New E-308 SW, e-Rifter and e-Traveller range. Peugeot Switch Grant is available on vehicle orders made between 04/01/2024 and 03/04/2024. Offer applies to Retail and Friends & Family purchases only. Motability, Fleet, Business and Peugeot Employee Sales are excluded from this offer. Participating Retailers only. Offer not transferable and no cash alternative is available.

*We are a credit broker and not a lender. Finance is subject to status and finance company acceptance. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders and their finance products. We will typically receive a commission from the lender, as either a fixed fee or a fixed percentage on the amount you borrow. The commission we earn does not change by the type of finance. A guarantee may be required. The finance rate will vary dependent of customer personal circumstances for in dealership purchases. Applicants must be 18+. Unless otherwise stated, metallic paint at extra cost. Library image for illustration purposes only. 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.

WHAT CAR? IS THAT - IT'S A WHAT CAR? 2024 AWARD WINNING KIA, THAT'S WHAT.



Kia racks-up a stack of What Car? awards...again.

Each year, the What Car? names the best new cars across several vehicle categories. A car must have been tested back-to-back with its rivals on UK roads by What Car?'s team of road testers.

And one again, Kia has come away with an armful of gongs.

Kia was named as

- Best Family SUV ...that was for the Sportage for the second year running
- Best Family Electric SUV...for Kia EV6
- Best Electric 7-seater for the recently launched Kia EV9
- Tow Car Award went to the Kia brand for its wide choice of towing-capable cars

So, what did the judges say about the individual awards and why did Kia perform so well?

Kia Sportage: 'Best Family SUV'

The judges rated it ahead of all other rivals so for the Sportage to win for a second year on the bounce is a terrific achievement.

The judges said..."The Kia Sportage has a more comfortable ride than key rivals, yet it inspires confidence on winding roads, thanks to strong grip and accurate steering. You also get a smart-looking and user-friendly interior that offers a properly elevated driving position."

Kia EV6: 'Best Family Electric SUV'

Two years on from winning What Car?'s overall 'Car of the Year' award, the Kia EV6 is still seen by many as setting the standard for EVs in its class.

The judges commented: "...the Kia EV6 continues to blend a great battery range, fast charging, a fine ride and handling balance and generous equipment levels for a competitive price better than any rival."

Kia EV9: 'Best Electric 7-Seater'

The all-new Kia EV9 picked up this category with the judges praising it for its capabilities and value compared to rivals:

They said..."The Kia EV9 is different, offering comfortable seating for seven adults in a package that - while far from cheap - is well priced next to rivals. And with a generous official range, the EV9

can tackle long trips."

Kia wins overall 'Tow Car Award'

This gong went in Kia's direction because it offers a wide choice of towing-capable cars.

The judges commented: "Kia as a brand was most deserving of the award for the way it consistently builds brilliant tow cars, whether you want a diesel, a hybrid or even a fully electric car."

In other words, if you're in the market for a family-sized SUV that has either petrol or electric power...or would like a car that can tow...or an electric car with 7 seats, then you need to take a close look at Kia.

They're winners.



For more information
[Click Here](#)



WHAT CAR?

CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024

Best Family Electric SUV
Kia EV6

KIA

The fully-electric
Kia Range



ALLINGTONS
MOTOR GROUP

11 Freeman Way, Ashington,
Northumberland, NE63 0YBA
01670 817997

DESIGN YOUR OWN FRENCH FLAIR



The Citroën C3 - now with added electricity

If you enjoy the idea of customising your next new car, head straight to the Citroën C3 because there are 97 different exterior colour combinations.

And there's another choice to be made.

Petrol or electric?

You can now opt for either the 1.2 litre petrol engine (there's a choice to be made between 108bhp or 82bhp outputs...we prefer the beefier one) in the C3 or why not go 100 per cent battery powered and try the Citroën E-C3 which was launched very recently.

Both cars have similar performance...0-60 takes around 11 seconds. The 111bhp E-C3 can manage an estimated range of just under 200 miles although that will drop in chilly



weather. However, Citroën reckon that most buyers of the E-C3 will do around 50 miles per day so that range will be fine. You can also recharge the battery from 10-80 per cent in 26 minutes.

Alternatively, if you have a wallbox at home, plug-in the car overnight and you'll have a full battery for when you've finished your cornflakes.

Every Citroën C3...petrol or electric... is great to drive. Comfort is high on the agenda... cushy ride and comfy seats... great for families and commuting. The



Citroën XC3 is also one of the roomiest cars in its class...it's a proper 5-seater.

And it's great value for money. £13,995 (Feb 24) gets you into the petrol C3 and just over £20,000 will see you drive off in the all-electric E-C3 which, incidentally, makes it one of the most cost-effective electric cars on sale in the UK.

Decisions, decisions.

BECAUSE LIFE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL IN COLOUR

CITROËN C3 from £197⁰⁰

Personal Contract Hire: C3 Plus 83Php

ADVANCE PAYMENT: £1,773, MONTHLY PAYMENT: £197⁰⁰

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE: 5000/yr, DURATION OF AGREEMENT: 35 months



CITROËN



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Durham Road, Gateshead, NE8 4AP. 0191 357 7594

SHERWOODS TOWN CENTRE CITROËN SUNDERLAND

Sherwoods Town Centre, Ferryboat Ln, Sunderland, SR5 3JN. 0191 357 5776

www.sherwoodsmotorgroup.co.uk

Terms & Conditions: Citroën PCH Offer - The duration of the agreement is 36 months, and the mileage agreement is set at 5000 miles per year. The excess mileage charge is 10p per mile. At the end of the contract, you must return the vehicle, and you will have nothing further to pay provided the vehicle is in good condition and has not exceeded the agreed mileage. Contract Hire is subject to status, age 18 and over. You will not own the vehicle. Contract Hire is provided by Finance Provided by PSA Finance UK Limited, RH1 1QA. Excesses, limits on age, convictions/claims apply. ***Maintenance includes routine servicing, tyres, replacement parts, and repairs due to fair wear and tear. Repairs or replacements from accidental/malicious damage and damage caused by driver misuse/abuse are excluded. The vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and by an approved service dealer.

CAR INSURANCE... PRICES ROCKET.

The cost of car insurance has increased by 58% over the past 12 months.

That's what the latest research from the comparison website Confused.com has shown. They say the average cost of comprehensive car insurance policy is now £995 - an increase of £366 over last year. Ouch.

They studied more than 6 million anonymous car insurance quotes every quarter during 2023 to find out how car insurance prices are changing. The prices used to calculate the index are based on an average of the best 5 quotes on Confused.com. The prices we show here are taken from this data. Okay, it may vary from company to company, but these figures give you a rough idea of the state of play when it comes to your annual car insurance costs.



"During the fourth quarter of 2023 (October-December), drivers paid 58% (£366) more than a year ago" confirmed the Confused.com website. "This is the eighth annual price rise in almost two years. Our research also shows a quarterly increase in the cost of car insurance. Prices are £71 (8%) higher in this quarter than they were in the previous 3 months.

It's interesting to compare insurance quotes year on year....here are the figures for the October-December period over the last four years....

Q4 2020 £575
Q4 2021 £529
Q4 2022 £629
Q4 2023 £995

The big factor when it comes to car insurance is age. A lot of teenage drivers who've just passed their test can end up paying more for car insurance than they paid for the car itself. According to Confused.com drivers aged 18, for example, paid an average of £3,162 for their policy...more than triple the national average. It's also £1,447 (84%) more than a year ago.

So, how can we all reduce our care insurance costs? Here's what Confused.com recommend....

"Shop around every year for a better car insurance deal...pay annually for your insurance, if you can...increase your voluntary excess...and build up a no-claims bonus."

Thankfully, the website does have one bit of good news...

"Drivers will be pleased to know that fuel is one of the few costs that are coming down. According to our fuel price index, fuel prices rose between August 2021 and July 2022 before starting to come down again. Petrol now costs £1.41 per litre, and diesel costs £1.49, on average (prices correct as of 10th January 2024).

Car insurance is one of life's necessary evils...no matter what, get ready for a shock when the time comes to renew. Good luck.





YORKSHIRE'S NATIONAL PARKS ARE CHARGING

Don't panic...you're not going to have to pay to enjoy the countryside

It's all part of a scheme to provide more electric chargers for battery powered cars.

Anyway who has previously or currently owns an electric car, knows the problem when it comes to range anxiety and ensuring that you have sufficient juice in the battery to get home.

Cities and the motorway network are generally pretty good, but once you head into the sticks, things can become a bit tricky and you need to do a lot of forward planning.

Which of course is the problem when it comes to our National Parks because... obviously... they tend to be in more remote areas.

Thankfully, BMW is giving a helping hand. 18 new electric vehicle charger-points have been installed across the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks to support zero emission car journeys whilst driving. The new chargers are funded by BMW UK as part

of its Recharge in Nature partnership with National Parks UK.

Through this partnership, BMW UK is also supporting North York Moors National Park to develop outdoor volunteering programmes for families and young adults

This enhancement of the EV network in Yorkshire is the next important milestone in the Recharge in Nature partnership, which will install EV chargers across all 15 of the UK's National Parks by the end of 2025. The three-year initiative will support the use of electric cars both for visitors and also for those who live and work in the National Parks - and so help to reduce both emissions and noise pollution in these precious landscapes.

Twelve of the new EV charge-points have been installed in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, at the Malham National Park Visitor Centre; the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes; and Grassington National Park Visitor Centre.





Meanwhile in the North York Moors, six chargers can be found at Sutton Bank National Park Centre, with an additional six chargers set to be installed at Danby Lodge National Park Centre.

Neil Heseltine, Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and National Parks Partnerships' Board Member, commented: "The Yorkshire Dales National Park alone welcomed 5.1 million visitors in 2022. We're so pleased that our partnership with BMW UK will support those who are travelling to Yorkshire's National Parks in EVs, to do so with more confidence. Part of our responsibility as National Parks is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of our Parks and this includes facilitating more sustainable journeys to Yorkshire's National Parks."

The UK has nearly 54,000 public charging points but one third of these are currently in London. With 93 million visits to the UK's National Parks made by car each year, this enhancement of the network throughout National Parks, supported by BMW, means more travel options for those choosing to drive.

Alongside the installation of EV chargers throughout all National Parks, the Recharge in Nature partnership is also supporting community impact and nature restoration projects unique to the individual National Parks. The North York Moors National Park is using BMW funding to support outdoor volunteering programmes for families and young adults. The goal is to boost the physical and mental wellbeing of those volunteering and establish a community



of committed conservationists. An important aspect of this is also ensuring young people have a say in the National Park's decision-making processes.

Heather McNiff, Head of Outdoor Learning and Engagement at the North York Moors National Park, said: "Historically we have lots of very young volunteers, as well as people aged over 40, but we've struggled to engage individuals that fall between those age brackets. Thanks to BMW UK's funding we're able to support 'Youth Plus', which provides more opportunities for those aged 16 and over to engage with volunteering in the National Park. We're passionate that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and so BMW's funding also supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with additional accessibility requirements to access the National Park and its volunteering programmes."

All of which is terrific and very welcome

news.

The photos you see here are at the top of Sutton Bank near Thirsk. So, rock up in your electric car, plug it in and then shove off on a stunning walk. Cross the road, bear left and you will walk past the gliding club and eventually arrive at the Kilburn White Horse (Google it.) It was cut into the rock in 1957 and then covered in lime to give it its white colouring. Apparently you can see it from Leeds which, as the crow flies, is almost 30 miles away. You'll also spot it when passing through Northallerton on the East Coast main line.

Alternatively, cross the road outside the visitor centre, bear right, and you will eventually arrive at what is supposed to be the best view in England. We'll let you decide whether that's the case, but it's impressive all the same.

Quick word about the visitor centre itself...check the seasonal opening times...there's a really nice café inside, the inevitable shop, plus loads of information about the area. And there are also the important 'facilities'. Careful on the road from Thirsk...you need to negotiate Sutton Bank. Caravans are not allowed on this stretch of the A170 road.

Oh...and a bit of useless information...at the foot of Sutton Bank lies the village of Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe. Here's something you can use at the next pub quiz...at 27 letters long, the village has the longest hyphenated name in England.

Anyway, well done to BMW for putting some of their profits into the National Parks.

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