

**free
car
mag**

**Back
on TV**



Iron (Esprit) Lady

Maggie drives Colin's Turbo



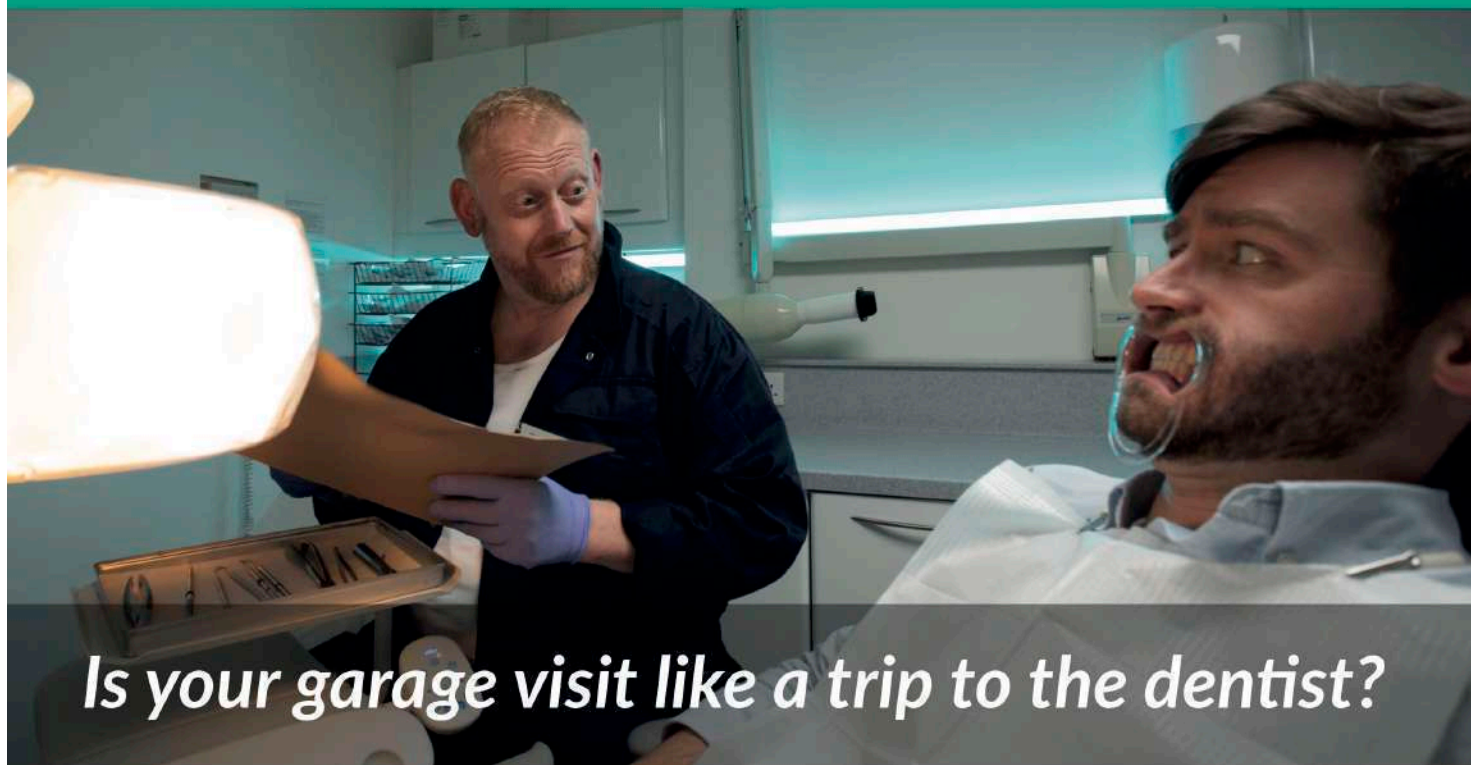
We go in search of a Mitsubishi's
missing horsepower and actually find
shedloads of BHP...



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ISSUE 87 / 2020



freetorial

Plans, even the best laid ones, seldom turn out as expected. Instead what we have delivered is a slightly retro issue, which is beginning to be something of a pleasing theme in itself.

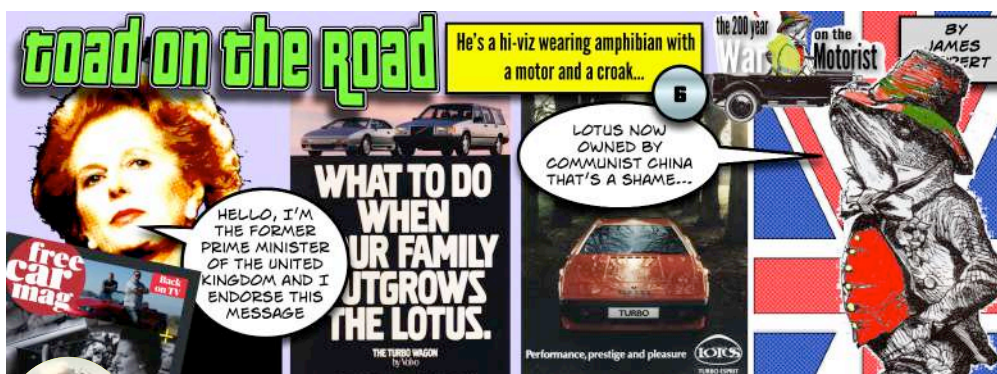
Certainly there are books and quite wonderful ones too. Friend of the Free Car Mag, David Milloy, has come up with a publication which has done the almost impossible and rekindled our interest in Formula One. Not only that, his brilliant 'Ultimate F1 Quiz Book' will give a serious cut of the profits to jolly good causes.

On the subject of racing, Jochen Rindt. It is an ultimately sad, but still inspiring story and we were lucky enough to get a couple of images to share with you.

Meanwhile, Kiran Parmar gives us some usefully practical advice about how to make your car better again and Shahzad Sheikh delivers proper car reviews and comment. That part of the Free Car Mag plan worked. See you next time.



Mrs Thatcher travelled at 88 mph in an Esprit Turbo to visit Free Car in the future to say cheers for putting her on the cover...



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- 4 News Events Celebs
- 8 Wheeler Dealers
- 10 Lotus Certificates
- 12 Caterham Super 7
- 14 Finding BHP
- 16 Jochen Rindt
- 18 Back Seat Driver
- 22 Ultimate F1 Quiz Book
- 23 Wanted Braun Watch
- 24 Buy Now Suzuki, Alfa Romeo, Toyota
- 28 Brown Car Guy
- 30 Next Time - No Idea, as usual



FUELLED
BY FUN

Livery celebrates
ex-serviceman
Martyn Compton's
'Alive Day' after
suffering life-
changing injuries in
Afghanistan
in 2006



JAY MORTON DRIVES PRAGA R1 IN RACING DEBUT

"Everything I have done in my career, and my whole approach to life is about facing new challenges. Whether that is joining the Special Forces or climbing Everest, I have always wanted to test myself and you only need to look at the Praga R1 to see what an exciting opportunity this is. It's great to be here to celebrate with Martyn, a man who has tackled more adversity than I could ever imagine. I know how important motorsport has been to his rehabilitation. The car looks incredible in the commemorative livery and I am looking forward to sharing a track with him next year as team-mates and competitors." www.pragaglobal.com



CUPRA + MARC TER STEGEN OF BARCELONA FC

Marc ter Stegen has had a massively successful football career so far. The professional player has won no less than 14 titles within the last five years, including a UEFA Champions League (2015) as well as four Spanish Leagues. He has also made 24 appearances for the German national team. "I'm proud to become a CUPRA global ambassador. I truly identify with its brand values of passion, determination and high performance, as well as its connection to Barcelona. I share the brand's attention for fine details, high regard for exclusivity and sporty performance. I'm looking forward to enjoying this successful unique partnership where I will be actively engaging in upcoming CUPRA projects and driving their special models", Marc said.



Zef 'MAX' Eisenberg is the presenter of ITV4 'Speed Freaks', and holds over 70 Guinness speed records.

ZEF EISENBERG + MADMAX PORSCHE 911 TURBO

Eisenberg said "the hardest part of the build was making sure that the Porsche 911 remained fully road legal. This is no trailer queen or stripped out race car the interior has been kept as standard with its luxury full leather interior trim, road tyres, air con etc, plus road legal exhausts. The only difference is that it features a full FIA sanctioned 6-point roll cage, race seats and 6-point harness, door bars and carbon cup race doors, a very powerful race engine and a newly fitted parachute!"

He continued "The team have worked tirelessly on the engine to ensure that it can withstand 3 miles of full power with well north of 1000hp at the wheel, which is no mean feat for a road legal car. Much work has been done to still make it safe and road legal. We had to ensure that it still had the ability to drive in traffic jams without overheating and that I could actually drive to the event and fill her up at with regular unleaded along the way. There's even room for a cup holder between the roll cage for my takeaway coffee! It's a 240mpg, 1820kg, one off Porsche built by us". The records were set at Vmax200 by Autovivendi iwhich s considered to be the UKs premier top-speed driving event which is held on a runway at RAF Kendrew Barracks in Leicestershire.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Eisenberg replied "We just need to turn up the power and increase the speed even more at a big speed record attempt in September". Eisenberg, better known for his motorbike speed record exploits achieved over 240mph in his MADMAX 1200hp + road legal Porsche 911 Turbo specially built and prepared by ES Motors and his MADMAX Race Team and set the following: Fastest Porsche in the UK, Fastest quarter mile (one way) wheel powered record, Fastest half mile (one way) wheel powered record

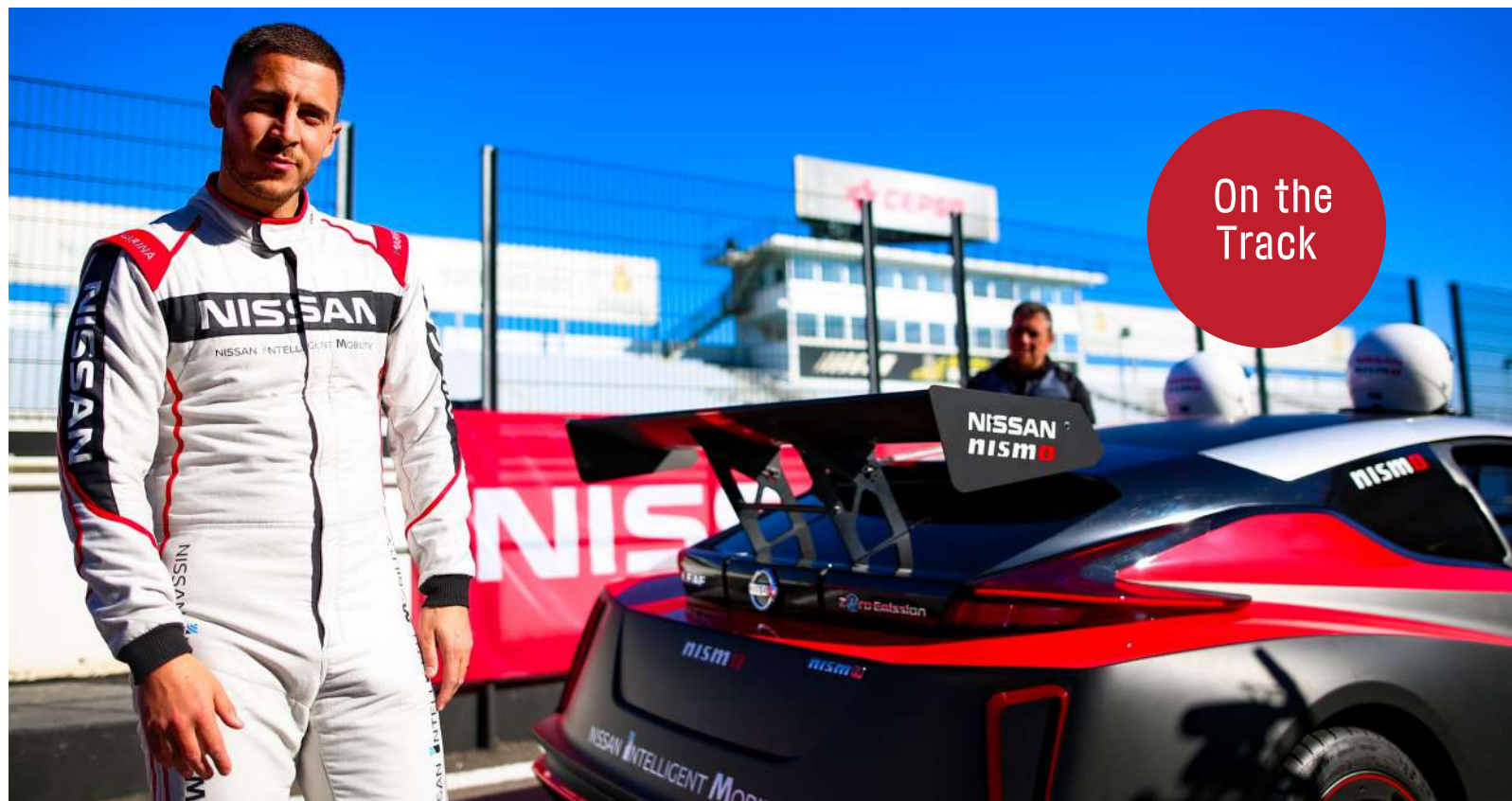
Fastest Top speed at the event – 240mph.

SPOTTED
OUT AND
ABOUT

EDEN HAZARD + THE POWER OF NISSAN EVS

Eden Hazard loves the thrill of speed. Oliver Rowland loves soccer. When the two met at the Jarama Circuit in Spain to push Nissan's high-performance electric cars to their head-spinning limits, the excitement was mutual. Hazard, player for Real Madrid C.F. and a Nissan global brand ambassador since 2018, took the wheel of the Nissan LEAF e+ under the expert tutelage of Nissan Formula E team driver Rowland. Next, Hazard experienced the full power of the official UEFA Champions League Trophy carrier, the LEAF NISMO RC, capable of accelerating to 100 kph in a dizzying 3.4 seconds. "I knew that electric vehicles can be fun to drive on the street – but wow, what a track experience!" Hazard said after the session. "I particularly enjoyed driving the Nissan LEAF NISMO RC. I love performance cars, and the instant acceleration this car produces is incredible."

On the
Track



The Chubb Interviews



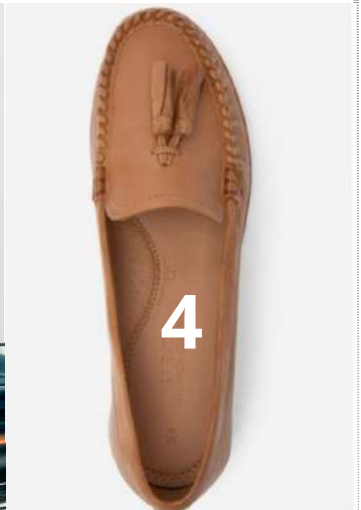
Get The Look

JODIE KIDD + THE CHUBB INTERVIEWS PODCAST

Co-hosted each month by a motoring expert, The Chubb Interviews will meet the people that populate the impassioned and specialist world of classic cars. The series is designed to entertain and inform experts and classic car hobbyists alike. Jodie Kidd, The Chubb Interviews host, said: "Classic cars really take a hold of you in a way very few things do. The passion, the expertise and the skill of the people that inhabit this world has hooked me in since a very early age. To be now hosting a podcast with Chubb, who already insure my vehicles, on the very subject closest to my heart is an absolute dream and I can't wait to share more wonderful stories with our listeners." Meanwhile let's see if we can get Jodie's classic look.

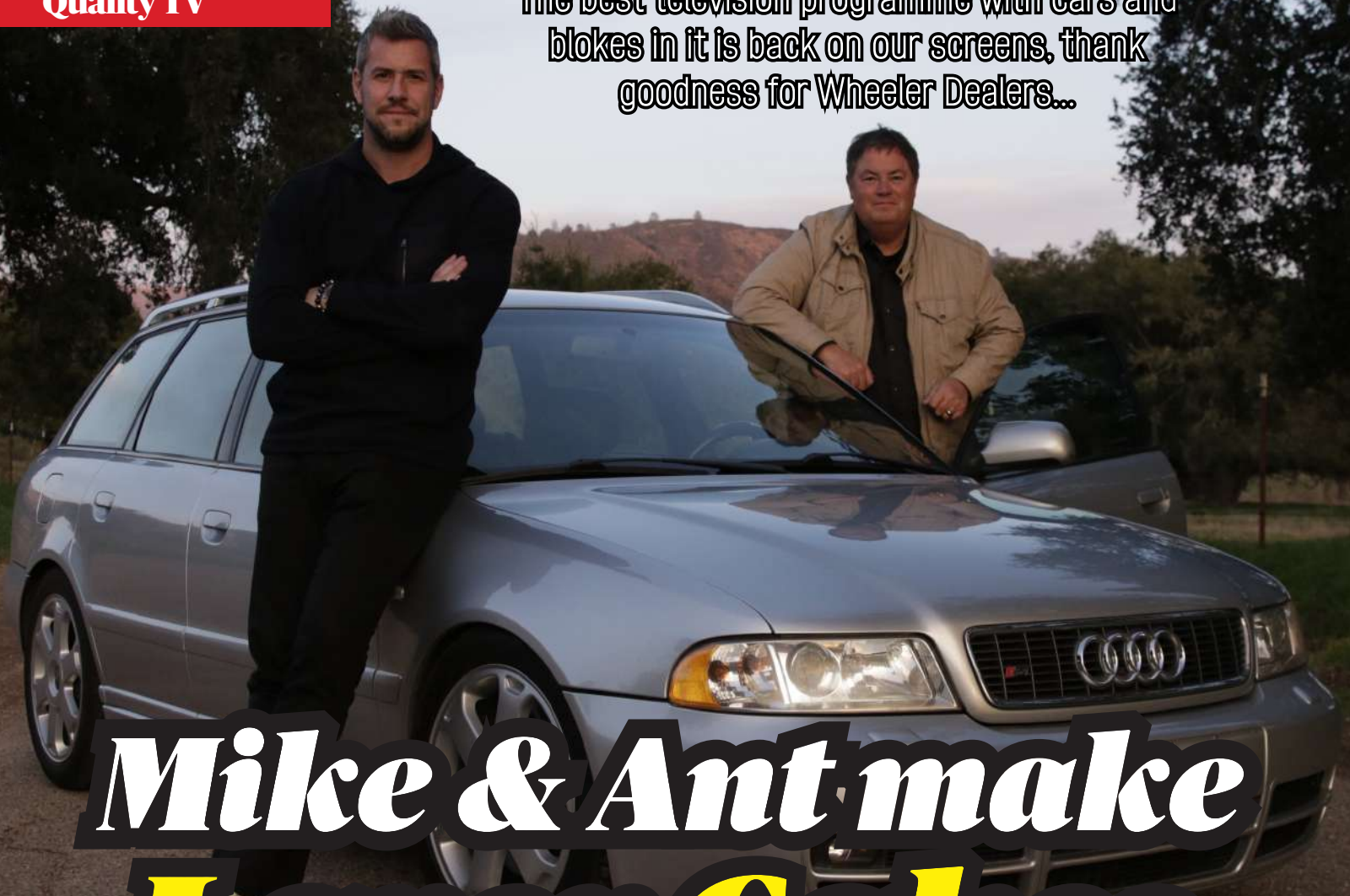
Jodie Kidd

- 1 Mercedes-Benz 280SL £175.995
- 2 Jacket - ASOS £39.00
- 3 Trousers - Misguided £25.20
- 4 Shoes - Next £45.00



Quality TV

The best television programme with cars and blokes in it is back on our screens, thank goodness for Wheeler Dealers...



Mike & Ant make Layer Cakes

They are not doing a cookery show, just one that rescues and revives classics and bears no resemblance to a Daniel Craig film featuring an Avant.....

Car dealer Mike Brewer and multi-talented mechanic Ant Anstead return to our TV screens this summer with a brand-new series of Wheeler Dealers, broadcast exclusively on Discovery Channel.

In the new series, the dynamic duo continues to track down classic and iconic vehicles in need of some TLC, with each episode challenging the pair to restore a car to its former glory before selling it on for a profit.

Mike is charged with finding vehicles that have money-making potential, while master mechanic Ant can usually be found in the Wheeler Dealers workshop, working on everything from bare metal resprays to gearbox conversions.

This season zips from the sunny beaches of southern California to the coldest edges of Maine as the diverse used car market of the United States is combed for the best vehicles to buy, restore, test and eventually pass on to enthusiastic new owners.

Wheeler Dealers returns exclusively to Discovery Channel on 31 August 2020 at 9:00pm .



Audi S4 Quattro Avant

Here is a lovely 1969
Datsun Roadster with Ant
working his mechanical
magic...



2001 Saab Viggen

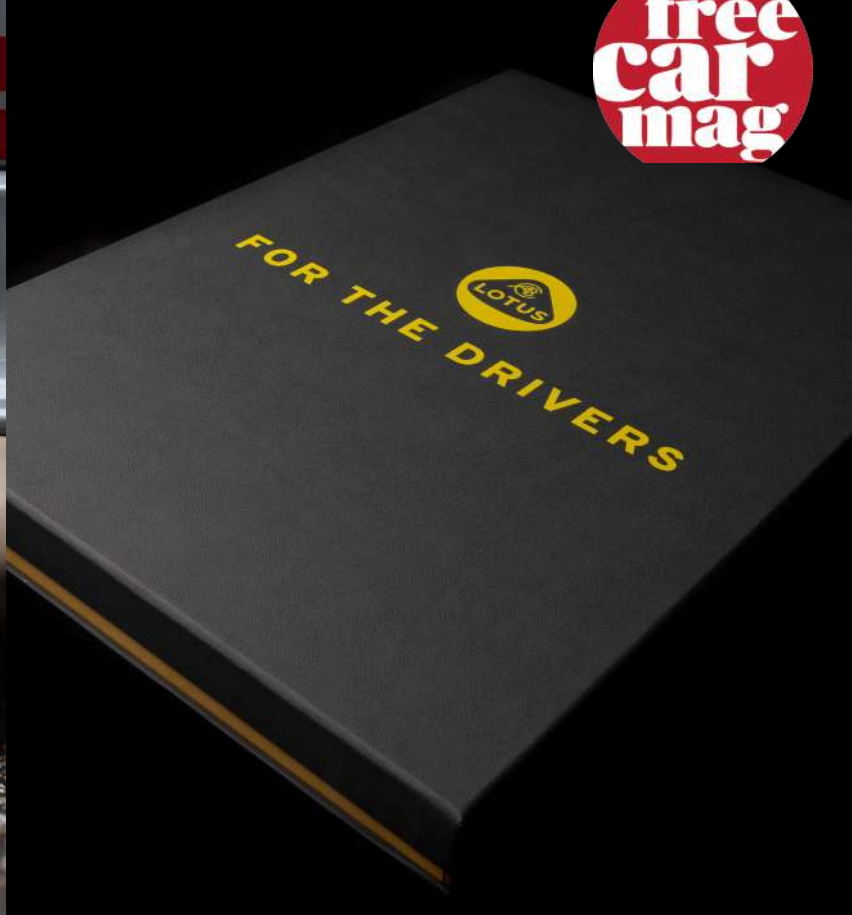


More '69 Datsun



Pure Plastic

Lotus is launching a new Certificate of Provenance programme, revealing the first recipient as a stunning and celebrated Turbo Esprit that was the final 'company car' of Lotus founder Colin Chapman.



The new Certificate of Provenance is designed to appeal to owners of Lotus cars from any era. They could buy one for themselves or receive it as a gift from friends or family. It is delivered in a distinctive 'For The Drivers' Lotus presentation box, which contains:

The Certificate of Provenance – printed on premium paper, this provides a summary of the car's details including the VIN, paint colour and specification. The certificate also notes the date on which the car completed its production at the Hethel factory and was passed to the Lotus sales team.

The Build Specification Letter – drafted using detailed vehicle information from the Lotus archive, this document provides more in-depth information about the car, including its engine, transmission, standard features and optional extras.

A personalised letter to the customer signed by Phil Popham, CEO, Lotus Cars, thanking them for their purchase and updating them on the transformation which is taking place at Lotus.

The three documents are presented in a simple black envelope placed inside the presentation box. Beneath it is a selection of Lotus collectables, including an aluminium plaque engraved with the owner's name and information from the Certificate of Provenance; a leather Lotus keyring; a carbon fibre bookmark featuring the brand's nine most significant motorsport laurels; a

presentation tin of four badges; and a Lotus ink pen.

The Certificate of Provenance is available worldwide through Lotus retailers. In the UK it costs £170 + postage.

The 1981 Lotus Turbo Esprit has the UK registration plate UVF 464X and was first registered to Lotus on 1 August of that year. Its own Lotus Certificate of Provenance reveals it was allocated to company founder Colin Chapman for his exclusive use. Following Chapman's death in December 1982, it was sold by Lotus in July 1983 and has been in private hands ever since, covering just 11,000 miles and regularly maintained. Finished in metallic Silver Diamond paint with 'Turbo Esprit' decals, the factory-fitted optional extras include a full red leather interior, air-conditioning and a Panasonic audio system integrated into the headliner.

However, the specification is completely unique as it has several features added at the request of Chapman to improve his own driving comfort and enjoyment. These include power steering – it was the first Esprit ever to have this technology – plus modified and lowered suspension, modified brakes and BBS Mahle lattice alloy wheels.

On 5 August 1981 the car was used by Chapman to promote the latest Lotus range to the then UK Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, when she toured Norfolk. After landing at Norwich Airport and talking to Chapman, she sat behind the wheel and drove it round the site's private roads. Local media reported that she had said: "I was tempted to drive away in it."

Retro Roadster



Super Soaraway '70s



Caterham's New 135bhp Super Seven 1600 rekindles the '70s Spirit



Caterham Cars has launched its latest retro-inspired model – the Super Seven 1600 – after the enormous success of previous heritage cars. With prices starting at £33,495, or £325.99 a month for 48 months, for a car in component form, the 135bhp, five-speed Super Seven 1600 fits perfectly into Caterham’s existing heritage line of products as a permanent addition, alongside the wildly popular limited-edition Sprint and Super Sprint models launched in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Inspired by the craftsmanship of the original Super Seven and the early cars created under the historic Caterham badge, the new Super Seven features a raft of retro details and styling cues. These include the classic flared front wings, retro-inspired 14” alloy wheels, a spare wheel and carrier harking back to the touring Sevens of old, and a choice of Seven heritage paint finishes. In the interior, the retro experience continues, with a timelessly elegant wooden-rimmed steering wheel and classically tailored leather upholstery. Designed to evoke the glamour, colour and joy of motoring in the 1970s, with none of the drawbacks of ‘70s technology, the new-for-2020 car is the first Super Seven to be offered in the wider, more comfortable large chassis (SV), as well as the standard version (S3). And it’s not just the car’s looks that hark back to the ‘70s – the Super Seven 1600 includes DCOE throttle body injection, found on any self-respecting rally car of the era and producing a distinctive growl, reminiscent of the twin ‘40s of the period.

To find out more information about the new Super Seven 1600, which is available to order now, visit:
www.thenew-oldschool.com



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Bring Back BHP

There is a myth amongst car enthusiasts that cars will lose one bhp per year. Whether this is true or not remains a mystery. Just in case you wondered, 'brake horsepower' (bhp) is the definitive measurement of engine power, taking into account power loss due to friction and measured by running the engine up to full revs, then letting it stop. However, I have noticed that my 2007 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 was feeling a tad sluggish recently. It only had 97 bhp from new which is not a lot by today's standards, so every bhp counts. I had the engine oil and oil filter changed in February 2020 along with its' MOT, but what else could I do to improve things?

Air Filter

The first job was easy, examine the air filter. A clogged air filter can cause hesitation when changing gears and poor acceleration. It will also increase fuel consumption, cause high exhaust emissions and restrict airflow to the engine. Think of your air filter as the lungs of your car's engine, your engine needs a clean supply of air to function properly. I upgraded my filter to a reusable K&N high performance type years ago and whilst it is superior to the throwaway ones it is easy to forget that it needs to be 'recharged.' You can do this by purchasing a K&N recharge kit. Simply remove the filter from your car, place it in a container, spray the cleaner onto both sides of the filter and let it soak in for several minutes. Then rinse the filter with a hose gun, you will see all the gunk and road dust wash away. Leave to dry and then add the oil sparingly that comes in the kit. Vacuum out any leaves or debris in the air box housing and replace the filter back to its original position when the oil has dried. .



Fuel Filter

Second, check the fuel filter. My Lancer has a 'sealed for life' fuel filter so there is not much I can do to replace it. Fuel filters capture impurities in fuel, underground fuel storage tanks at the petrol station can contain sand and even rust so it is important to change your fuel filter particularly if it is a diesel as diesel fuel is more vulnerable to water contamination. I decided to add 'Redex Petrol Fuel System Cleaner' as it claims to clean the fuel system, reduce emissions, restore performance, keep your injectors working better and extend the life of your car. Add half a bottle to a full tank of petrol.

Spark Plugs

Thirdly, I examined the spark plugs. As the name suggests, the spark plugs supply the spark that ignites the air and fuel mixture, creating an explosion in the cylinder which makes your engine produce power. These plugs create an arc of electricity across two leads which are not touching, but close enough together that electricity can jump the gap between them. I last changed my plugs at 22k miles in 2014. After consulting my friend Nash Hunter a Porsche expert who owns a company called 'Retro Restorer,' he advised me that now was a good time to change the plugs and he was right. After doing just 23,600 miles, look at the state of the old plugs. I replaced them with the same type, 'Bosch Super 4.' A premium quality spark plug which boast four thin ground electrodes instead of one for the best possible spark and a pointed, silver-plated centre electrode. Bosch say that this technical superiority also becomes apparent in engine performance in all driving situations and throughout the entire service life. All this smart technology came in at just under £15 for a set of four, very good value. I also considered changing the High Tension leads however upon inspection they were in excellent condition. To do this job you will need a socket wrench, extension, and a spark plug socket. Do this service when the engine is cold and avoid over tightening the spark plug, ask an automotive technician if you are unsure.



Pollen Filter

Finally, for my own bhp boost, I replaced the cabin pollen filter and carried out an air-con refresh service using 'Normfest Viro Dry Shot' and 'Normfest Viro Air Fresh Plus - A/C and Ventilation System Cleaner.' As there are many trees where I live and that my car is parked outside throughout the year, after just six months the pollen filter was completely clogged and on the verge of overflowing with dried foliage.



Finally

After doing this mini service, what did I notice? Upon turning the key, the engine ran more smoothly and seemed more powerful. On the road I noticed the acceleration was sharper. The car now seems to want to keep on accelerating where before there was a flat spot. I should also notice a small difference in fuel economy as now the engine is breathing and firing cleaner. Looks like I have managed to claw back those horses that went missing. All in all, this service cost me £79 in parts plus £39 for garage labour for the oil and filter change. Well worth the time and effort and with a little know how and a socket set you can do it too.



Motor Racing



JOCHEN RINDT

UNCROWNED KING OF FORMULA 1

DAVID TREMAYNE
FOREWORD BY SIR JACKIE STEWART



David Tremayne's acclaimed biography of Jochen Rindt was first published in 2010 and now, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Austrian's death, Evro is reviving the book in paperback form. Rindt was widely acknowledged as the fastest man in Formula 1 by the time he reached his peak in 1970, when he tragically lost his life at Monza in Italy, four races before the end of the season. Such was his pre-eminence that year that no rival could overhaul his points total and he became the sport's only posthumous World Champion. As his close friend Jackie Stewart observed in this book's foreword, 'David Tremayne is a wonderful writer who has done Jochen great justice in the words that he has chosen to depict a remarkable man and a remarkable career.'

Rindt shot to prominence when he beat the established aces at the big Formula 2 race at Crystal Palace in 1964.

In the 1965 Le Mans 24 Hours he took a NART-entered Ferrari 250LM to a surprise victory with Masten Gregory.

Rindt went into Formula 1 with Cooper in 1965 and stayed for three seasons, but the once-great team was now on the wane and good results were sparse.

Jack Brabham recognised Rindt's sublime talent and brought him into his high-flying team, which had just won back-to-back world titles – but the Austrian's season was plagued by unreliability.

Lotus for 1969, and finally his maiden Grand Prix victory was achieved, at Watkins Glen.

A brilliant 1970 season in Colin Chapman's radical new Lotus 72 included four consecutive wins, enough to build a big lead in the points standings.

On 5 September 1970 Rindt crashed fatally in practice for the Italian Grand Prix at Monza – the following month he was confirmed as Formula 1's only posthumous World Champion. Buy this book.

www.evropublishing.com





Crash for Cash

Fraudulent Car Collision claims are on the rise

Crash for cash schemes remain a “real and growing” threat for drivers according to vehicle protection and management technology provider, AX. Data from industry body, Cifas, shows that motor insurance fraud is one of the fastest growing categories of insurance fraud in the UK.

Last year, the fraud data sharing organisation revealed that fraudulent car collision claims increased 45% year-on-year – well above an average of 27% across all categories of insurance fraud.

While the statistics suggest the problem is getting worse, reflecting the growing willingness of fraudsters to use every technique at their disposal to profit from the motor industry, AX suggests that drivers should educate and protect themselves and their vehicles.

These are AX's key recommendations for private motorists as well as commercial and dealer fleet managers:

Learn / teach drivers to recognise the warning signs

For example, fraudsters have intentionally disabled their brake lights to increase the chances of a collision. Also watch out for erratic driving and passengers looking back as they could be waiting to tell the driver when to slam the brakes on.

Investigate Collisions and claims

When a collision happens, drivers should gather evidence safely at the scene. Note key facts and where possible identify potential witnesses

Invest in dashcams, vehicle tracking devices and telematics

Any driver can invest in these technologies, and a fleet manager who suspects they may have been targeted by a staged collision can use telematics data to instantly verify whether the damage happened at the time and location reported by the claimant.

For more information on motor fraud and AX services, please visit: <https://www.ax-uk.com/innovation>

A new challenge sees SEAT test the capacity of the Tarraco's 760-litre boot and that it can take 8,500 golf balls without exceeding the load limit of the rear parcel shelf plus accommodate six people and carry 750 kg of other luggage.

The Challenge was completed by two promising young golfers, Oriol Martinez and Marina Martinez, who chose a sand wedge to achieve the height and control required to hit the target. The SEAT Tarraco was singled out as the “Ideal Car” by golf players and professionals at the 11th edition of the Spanish Media Cup, with outstanding practicality and impressive boot capacity making it a perfect fit for a regular visit to the driving range or 18 holes. Oriol Martinez explained: “It's convenient to be able to open and close the boot door without using your hands. We always carry around a lot of bags and clubs and this way, just by waving your foot under the bumper, it opens, and you don't have to put your things down on the ground.”

EATs largest with a volume of 760 litres, or 1,775 litres with the seats



Have your say  @freecarmag1



MEGA GT @ SALON PRIVE'

Koenigsegg has announced that its sensational world's first 'mega GT' will be making its UK debut at this year's Salon Privé Week. Long renowned for pushing the performance envelope, the Swedish brand will be presenting the all-new Gemera – its first four-seat model – in the magnificent surroundings of Blenheim Palace. Its name is derived from the Swedish words for 'give more', and it's been engineered to provide megacar performance but with a spacious interior and next-generation environmental technology. The result is a revolutionary new vehicle that can power four people and their carry-on luggage from 0-100kph in 1.9 seconds. The Gemera's two-litre, three-cylinder engine named the 'Tiny Friendly Giant' – or TFG for short – is able to run on conventional petrol as well as the very latest CO2-neutral renewable fuels, and designed to be super-efficient, give exceptionally low emissions and able to be packaged in super small spaces. The TFG is complemented by three electric motors and the combined powertrain gives a total output of 1700bhp, with an immense 3500Nm of torque. It drives through the patented single-gear Koenigsegg Direct Drive (KDD) transmission, and even features a lightweight 800V battery that enables the Gemera to run purely on electricity for up to 50 kilometres. The TFG can travel an additional 950 km at highway cruise speed in hybrid mode– totalling a 1000 km range. Find out more on September 22nd



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& Stella
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New



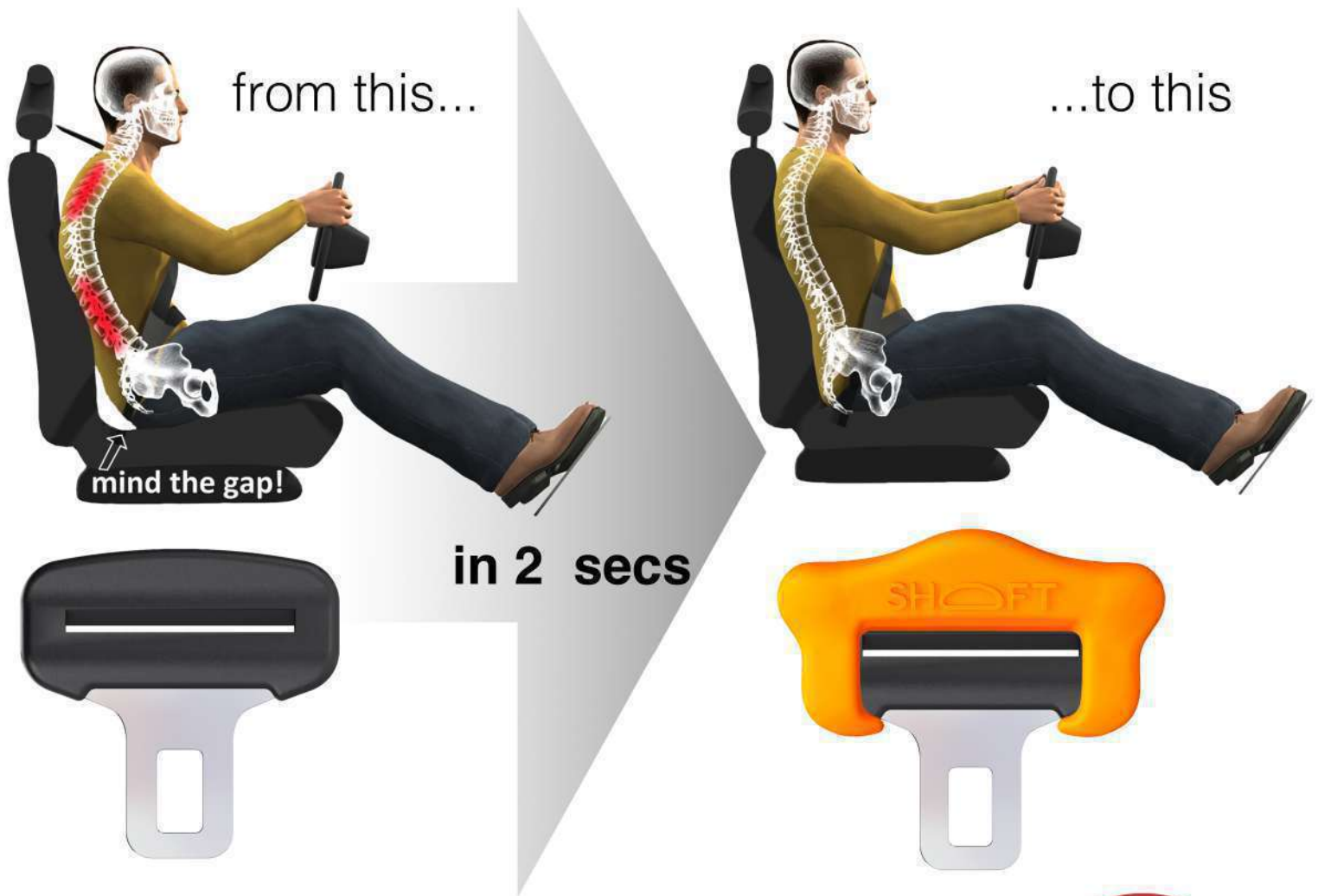
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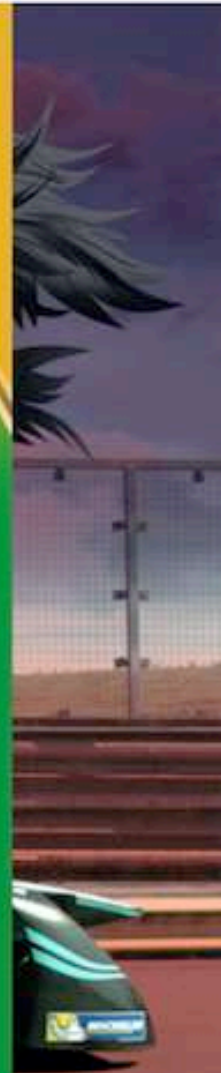


The Ultimate Unofficial F1 Quiz Book

by David Milloy



Illustrated by Marcus T Ward

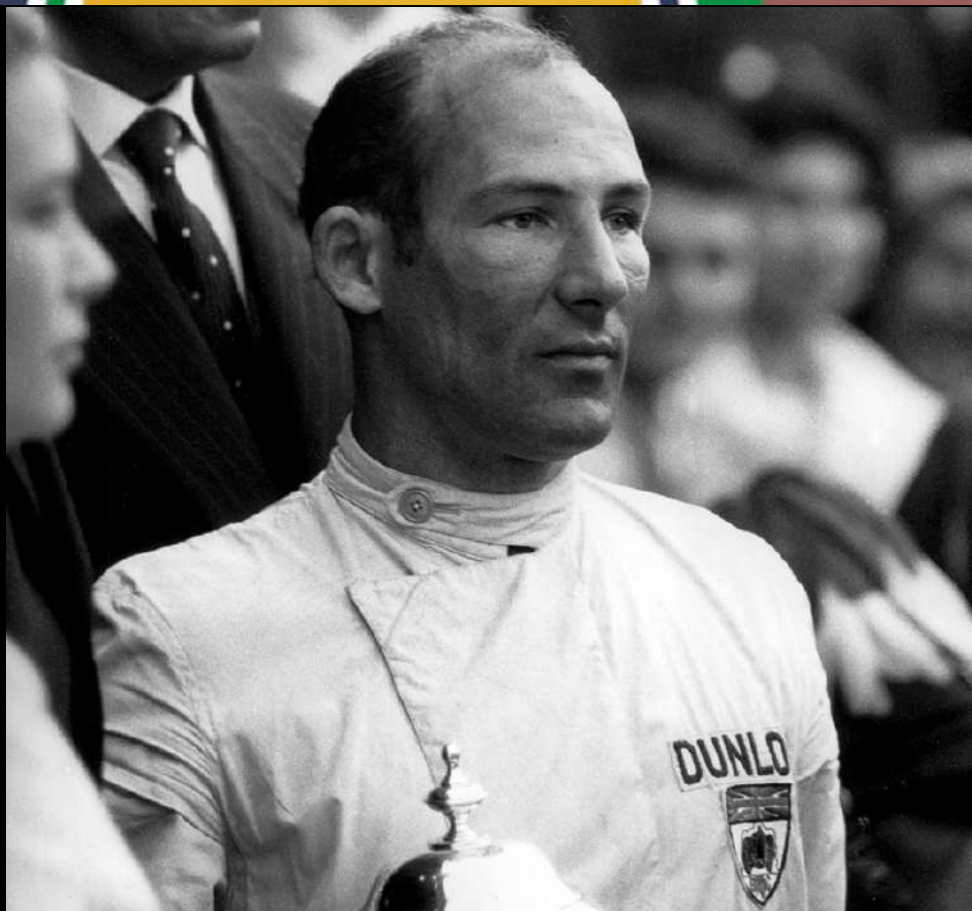


...think you know F1? This book is an education..

It is nice to get some good news for a change and here is quite possibly the Free Car Mag book of the year written by David Milloy. We had sort of fallen out of love with F1, but this is our sort of fun, plus it is educational too. The book runs to over 50,000 words and contains a wealth of information about F1 – from stray priests to six-wheelers – that spans its 70 years. And courtesy of Marcus T. Ward, it also contains several excellent images of some seminal F1 cars through the ages. Also, David is such a nice chap that the simple act of buying this book will help others. Half of David's income from the sale of each book will be given to charity.

The book is now available on Amazon or for those who have a Kindle device (and therefore a Kindle e-mail address) can purchase it directly from David using Paypal. Either way, the price is £4.00.

**Buy the book on Amazon obviously.
Also go to David's site at [https:// thelost
highway.online](https://thelosthighway.online)**





Braun

BN0021

Classic Watch

We still wanted a display as clear as a 1980s BMW dashboard, so we bought another one and it is rather excellent..

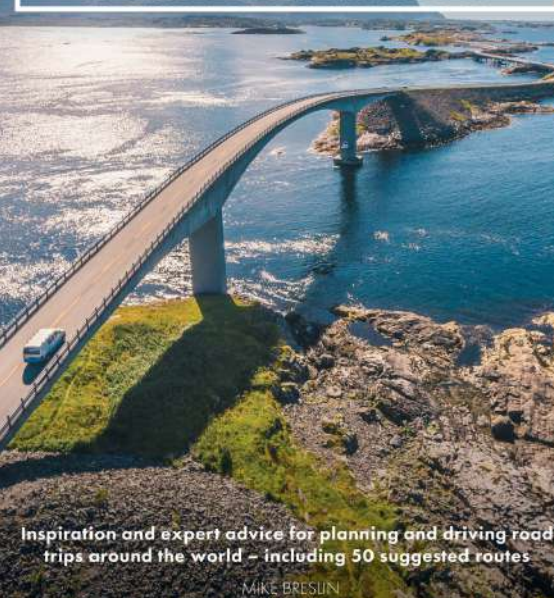
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ROAD TRIP



A PRACTICAL MANUAL



HAYNES ROAD TRIP MANUAL MIKE BRESLIN £22.00

The book provides invaluable information on how to prepare documentation and ensure that road trips are safe and legal, and also offers advice on hiring cars in other countries. The full spectrum of road trips is covered, whether you are popping over to Europe for a quick circuit, driving the classic routes of North America, or – for the more adventurous riders and drivers – if you are rae considering South American and African trips.

In true Haynes fashion, the book is packed with detail and down-to-earth advice, including 50 road trip routes, maps, planning notes and tips on navigation and driving in the various countries featured.

Prepared for 2020, it probably makes more sense for you to actually apply in 2021.

www.haynes.com



HALFORDS FINGERPRINT T-BAR STEERING LOCK £59.99

This steering lock uses a sequence of actions to store the fingerprint. It can hold up to 20 different prints at any one time, so family and friends can also access the steering lock, while they can also be deleted and replaced at any time. The lock is charged via a USB port.

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SUZUKI IGNIS

Standard equipment for the SZ3 model includes six airbags, air conditioning, DAB radio with Bluetooth, 15-inch wheels, LED headlights, body coloured door mirrors, front electric windows, rear privacy glass and five seats. SZ-T adds rear view camera, 16-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, wheel arch extensions and four seat capacity with individually sliding rear seats and Smartphone Link Display Audio with Apple Carplay and Android Auto. SZ5 adds auto air conditioning, satellite navigation, Dual Camera Brake Support, Lane Departure Warning, Weaving Alert, keyless entry and start, rear electric windows and front foglamps. The updated K12D 1.2-litre engine features a new dual injection system. Fuel efficiency is further enhanced when paired with the self-charging hybrid system powered by a new lithium-ion battery efficiency. There is more to the tough little box so ask a dealer.



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Alfa Romeo Revamped for 2020

GIULIA AND STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO

The Stelvio Quadrifoglio can accelerate from zero to 62mph in just 3.8 seconds, going on to a top speed of 176mph, while the Giulia Quadrifoglio reaches 62mph in just 3.9 seconds and goes on to 190mph. The soundtrack accompanying the Quadrifoglio driving experience is provided by a dual mode quad exhaust system. Customers can opt to fit the MY20 Giulia and Stelvio Quadrifoglio with a new Akrapovič exhaust, another dual mode system, in titanium with carbon fibre tailpipes, featuring an even more sophisticated sound..



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TOYOTA YARIS HYBRID

The new Yaris Hybrid is available in four grades with Icon as the entry point to the line-up. Its standard features include: Toyota Safety Sense • 16-inch alloy wheels • Smartphone integration • Toyota Touch 2 seven-inch multimedia display • Reversing camera • Automatic headlights and wipers • Electronic Parking Brake and driver's arm rest • Automatic air conditioning • Front electric windows • Power-adjustable, heated door mirrors • eCall.

Buyers have the potential to save more money on day-to-day running costs with the new Yaris Hybrid's 22 per cent improvement in efficiency the key to lower fuel bills. The new Yaris Hybrid is introduced with PCP retail finance offers through Toyota Financial Services with zero per cent APR representative available up to 42 months, making it as affordable as the current model, in terms of the monthly payments required. Contact your Toyota dealer for details.



ROAD CLOSURES CULTURE WAR COVID-19 IS THE EXCUSE

The Daily Telegraph covered the alleged “culture war” caused by road closures in Islington today. The article said: “The leader of Islington council, Richard Watts, hit back at suggestions that the road closure plans were ‘anti-working class’, writing on Twitter: ‘Car ownership in inner-London is linked to income. The richer you are, the more likely you are to own a car. The truth is we’re stopping affluent people polluting working class communities’.

Eliska Finlay, who lives in Crystal Palace, where further demonstrations have been taking place, claimed that the changes have led to a ‘culture war. People are being singled out and targeted for having cars’, the 45-year-old mother of two said” It’s certainly true that most of the local councils that are closing roads, as opposed to just putting in over Covid-19 measures such as widening pavements and installing cycle lanes, are left-wing, Labour dominated councils.

Are Labour councillors attacking wealthy car owners indirectly by closing roads? Perhaps but in reality they are often attacking their own electorate because it’s not just the wealthy who drive vehicles. In Lewisham for instance it’s about 50% of households who own a car and if you walk the streets of Lewisham as I have done, you won’t find many expensive vehicles. Road closures attack workers such as plumbers plus other service occupations, and social service workers who need vehicles to quickly get around the people they help. They also attack delivery drivers who deliver the goods we need, often to people undertaking self-isolation at present.

Richard Watts is surely just rationalising a view that all vehicles should be banned and turning Islington into a ghetto of poor people and the healthy young who can cycle because even the middle classes won’t want to live there as vehicles are so essential for so many purposes. That’s unless you want to be restricted to short walking and cycling distances or using public transport and have no incapacities.

If you actually look at air quality in Islington, the minor roads only contribute 6% of NOX emissions, whereas 20% comes from gas boilers. Buses and coaches also contribute 38% whereas cars only contribute 28% (source: Islington Air Quality Strategy 2019-2023). One could argue that it is the public transport users who are polluting the most!

We surely need to have less divisive politics which can cope with the needs and preferences of more than just one segment of the population.

Roger Lawson (Roger’s blog first appeared on his ABD London website)

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REVIEW

Ford Mustang Bullitt Edition

The Ford Mustang is one of the most evocative and iconic nameplates in automotive history. For well over half a century this has been the coolest ride on the block featured in more movies than any other car. But there's one appearance, a mesmerising 10-minute sequence, that claims the crown of best movie chase ever – featuring a 1968 Ford Mustang 390 GT Fastback driven by Steve McQueen in Bullitt.

Every now and then Ford dresses up a current model in tribute to the Bullitt Mustang as a special edition. It's tempting to be cynical, but one look at this brand new Stang, resplendent in the signature Highland green paint, wearing black Torq Thrust wheels and blacked out grille, and desire takes hold.

Like McQueen's car this Mustang has been beefed up, it is stiffer and gets a few extra ponies under the long bonnet housing that

now well-proven Coyote V8 5.0-litre engine. And just as McQueen would insist on shifting his own gears, so this Bullitt edition Mustang comes only with the choice of a 6-speed manual.

It looks a million dollars – even if it doesn't cost it. £43,000 for a regular V8 Mustang, and £49,000 for this Bullitt edition, then add another £1600 for the magneride suspension fitted, well worth the extra.

With 459bhp on tap it will accelerate from 0-62mph in just 4.9 seconds and achieve 163mph. You always find yourself being a little tentative on moving off, but the clutch take-up allows you to moderate your progress, and the gear changes, whilst a little notchy, are well defined. As you climb the rev range, the grunt propels this thing forward with alarming velocity.

Find yourself on a B-road and it hustles well, with excellent grip and cornering competence, once you've coaxed the long bonnet into changing direction – the initial hint of understeer disappears, while the threat of oversteer isn't as overbearing as you'd think. The rear seats are only for occasional use or children, and it's undoubtedly thirsty – I barely saw more than 15mpg in the city, and only 24mpg on a longer run.

Doesn't matter. This car makes you feel like superstar, and boy is it a head-turner and show-stopper. People give way, smile and point, they want to stop and chat. Mustangs are cool, the Bullitt Mustang, is the coolest of all.

Last month legendary former F1 and current road car design and engineering guru, Gordon Murray, revealed his follow-up to the iconic McLaren F1, the T.50. Three-seats, manual - yes MANUAL - gearbox, lightweight and loads of horsepower - oh, and an asking price of about £2.5m!

Outrageous right? Particularly in these hard-up days - surely it's unseemly and vulgar? But after 45 minutes of talking to the great man I was sold. If I was a billionaire, I'd be beating off other billionaires to secure one of only 100 cars.

Brainwashed? Moi? Never. This car and its engine is entirely bespoke and designed and built from scratch to his exacting standards and will probably be one of the greatest drivers cars of all time. Plus it has a massive fan on the back. Compared to say, a Bugatti, it's a bargain!

Watch
my exclusive
interview with
Gordon Murray



REVIEW

Jeep Wrangler

Wranglers are unbeatable when it comes to off-roading. But how do they cope with the urban jungle?

There's a choice of a 2.0-litre petrol or the 2.2 diesel and the model range starts with the Sport, but the Sahara (tested here) is the one to have. Rubicon is for hard-core off-roaders and Overland is the 'luxury' version. Prices start from around £41k and rise to just around £55k.

Cast out any concerns about the Wrangler being a crude and basic vehicle, this is well equipped with keyless start, digital instrumentation, a 550-Watt sound system, cruise control and dual-zone AC. It's comfortable and spacious in the front, but the rear is tight - get a four-door if you need more space. The roof and doors are removable and you can fold down the windscreen.

The 2.0 puts out 272bhp and 295lb ft of torque giving it a 0-62mph acceleration time of 7.3 seconds. Stick the 8-speed au-



tomatic into drive and it positively leaps off the line. That slightly floaty, perched on rolling stilts sensation remains, but you get used to it's er... 'handling idiosyncrasies'.

The huge tyres means that there's no fear of kerbs or width restrictions, and the high seating position gives you not only a handy

vantage point, but sits you at eye-level with bus drivers granting you a special kind of elite status.

So does it work in town? Absolutely. Is it appropriate? Maybe not. It is a indomitable companion that offers fun in the sun when it's warm, and durable dependability in all-conditions in harsh winters.

REVIEW BMW 330e

The BMW 330e is a plug-in hybrid, featuring a 2.0 4-cylinder engine producing 181bhp and 221lb ft of torque. The electric motor is installed just ahead of the eight-speed automatic transmission and produces 111bhp and 195lb ft. Combined output is 250bhp and 310lb ft driving the rear-wheels. Its top speed is 143mph with a 0-62mph acceleration

time of 5.9 seconds, which is on par with the 330i petrol version.

The 'e' is a little more expensive, but it's considerably cheaper than the diesel which matches it for real world fuel consumption as the quoted 200mpg figure is unlikely. It can drive up to 40 miles on electric power and if you set the Sat Nav, the car will automatically choose when to deploy EV mode

conserving battery power for urban areas and low-emission zones. A 'boost' feature gives you an extra 40bhp for a burst of ten seconds.

This car feels solid, rigid, well-built and tough, as well as quick, sure-footed, eager to barge down twisty B-roads and comfy on the motorway cruise. It will leave you smiling, and it is definitely one of the better looking 3

Series generations.

Yet there's something missing: the usual sprightliness is perhaps somewhat dulled in this 'e'. It's like it delivers dutifully, but stare deep into his laser-LED headlights, and there's a vacant numbness, a resignation to an era of electrification, possibly a hint of remorse at not being all it was born to be. Get the 330i instead.

WATCH MY VIDEO REVIEW OF THIS CAR



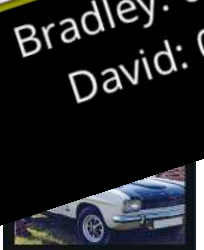
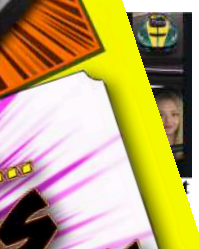
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We are always looking forward to the next one and there should be a lot to look forward to. Mostly we are following the restoration of an iconic VW Golf GTI Cabriolet. Otherwise, there should be some more fun and games involving motors. We look forward to seeing you next time...



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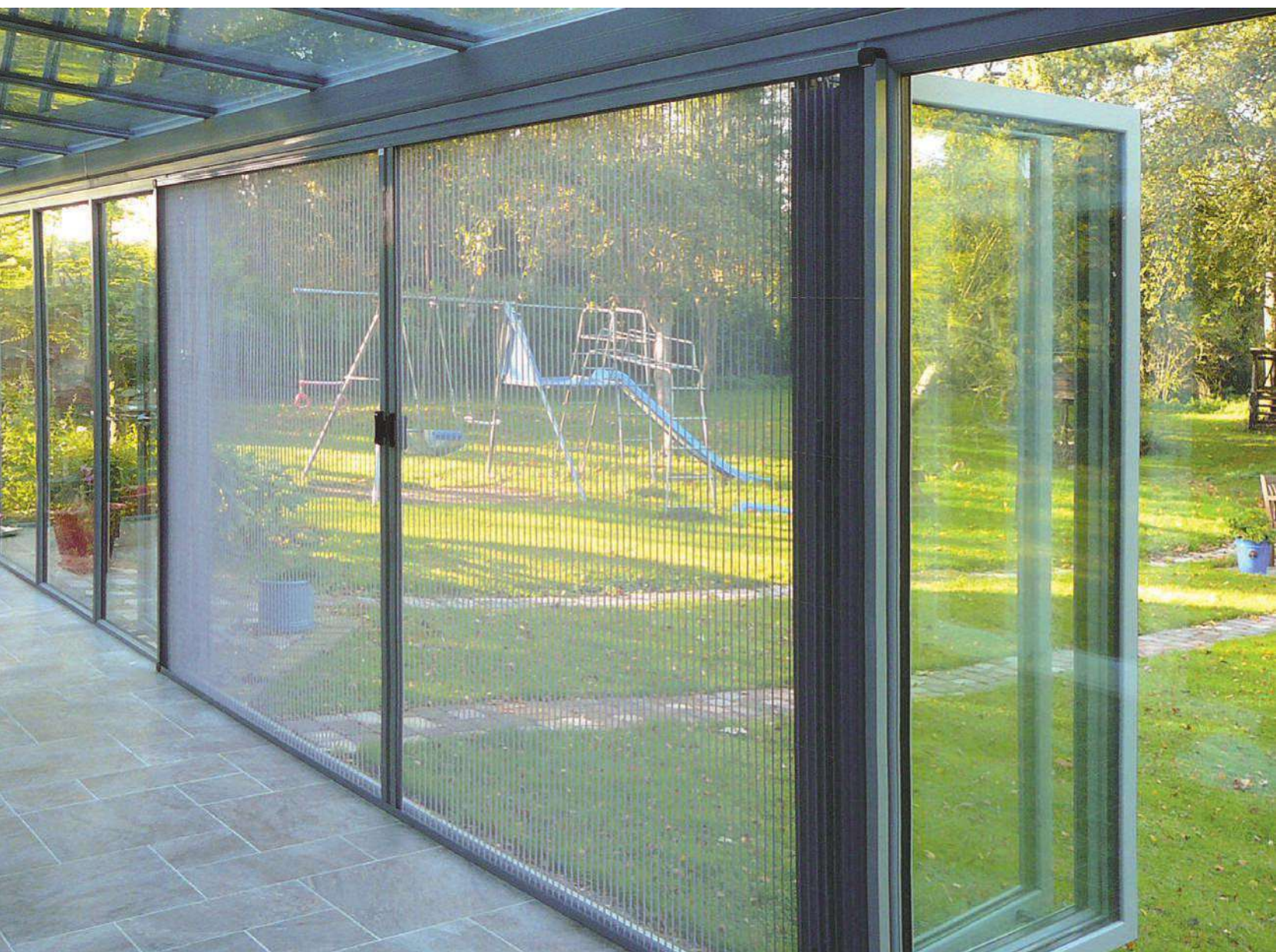


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