

## MOTORING MATTERS *by Sandie Goodwin*

### ALL NEW CITROEN C5

**T**axi Globe recently road tested the all new Citroen C5. Having first driven this car earlier this year at the launch, we decided to test drive the C5 2.2Hdi VTR+ with a 6 speed manual gearbox. The C5 is a spacious car with lots of clever design features. Our test car was a manual, but it is also available with an automatic transmission.

With the benefit of Citroen's Hydractive suspension, this car is comfortable to drive and the cabin is light and airy. On one weekend of our test drive, the C5 ate up the miles of motorway on a trip to Bristol and all four adults occupants arrived having enjoyed the comfort and ride quality of the car.

The Citroen diesel engines are renowned for being green and frugal and the C5 engine is no exception. Front, side and curtain airbags and a 'bag to protect the driver's knees and shins mean it is also a safe car to be in. Anti-lock brakes are standard. New front and rear crumple zones help the C5 attain a maximum five-star Euro NCAP rating. The driver's seat has height adjustment and the steering wheel adjusts for both rake and reach. French flair is evident not only on the outside of the C5 but also on the interior. All major controls are logically placed and the fixed centred controls steering wheel means the controls are always at your fingertips no matter where the steering wheel is angled. Our test model had auto digital dual zone air con.

There is plenty of room in the C5 for five adults and the big bootspace accommodates enough luggage under an easily accessible large tailgate. If you want to move things rather than people the rear seats fold down.

The VTX+ level trim of the C5 benefits from sat-nav and metallic paint as standard. We found the sat nav easy to use, with a clear screen. This screen also shows the position of the car when reversing into spaces. The test car also came with Citroen's much lauded Lane Departure Warning system, which means a vibration is felt through the driver's seat should the driver deviate from his lane – for example



if falling asleep. This system is a great safety aid, although you must remember to indicate before changing lanes or you will feel the vibrations.

Citroen report that they expect C5 drivers to be married with older children and a further car in the household.

Drivers will be driving the car for both business and for pleasure. We think whether it is work or play the C5 is comfortable, responsive, easy to drive and easy to live with. The test model is Group 13E for insurance and returned around 44 miles per gallon of diesel during our test week. Prices range from £15,595 for the 1.8i 16V SX up to £24,595 for the 2.7Hdi V6 208 Exclusive, according to model and specification.

### ECO-SAFE DRIVING INTRODUCED TO DRIVING TEST

**F**rom 10 September new motorists will be advised on how to drive in a way that saves money, saves fuel and cuts emissions as part of their practical driving test. Alongside this, Transport Minister Jim Fitzpatrick has also dedicated an extra £3 million to promoting smarter driving techniques that will help all motorists save on fuel costs. It also gives money-saving advice on new car purchasing. Driving test examiners will provide candidates with feedback on how green their driving is. Candidates will not pass or fail their practical test as a result of this assessment.

### LITTLE 500 IN NEW ECO ESTATE AGENT LAUNCH



**L**ondon Residential, based in Lin Parkway, Camden has bought five Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge cars, to use alongside four electric scooters as transport for its sales negotiators. The Fiat 500s should make a big impact on the streets of Camden as they have been finished in high impact Bossa Nova white with orange and black London Residential graphics.