

MOTERING MATTERS by Sandie Goodwin

CITROEN C4 PICASSO by Anthony Goodwin

When you ask people to name an MPV, the Citroen Picasso is high up the list. The old version was a huge success and I was looking forward to test driving the new and improved model. I wasn't disappointed - from the moment you first look at the Picasso you can tell the people at Citroen have been busy. It looks less like a people carrier and more like a car, with its sleek modern look. We were lucky to have our test model in Lounge specification which meant privacy glass, chrome grilles with bumper inserts and 18" Krakatoa chrome alloy wheels. It looked great and I really enjoyed driving it.

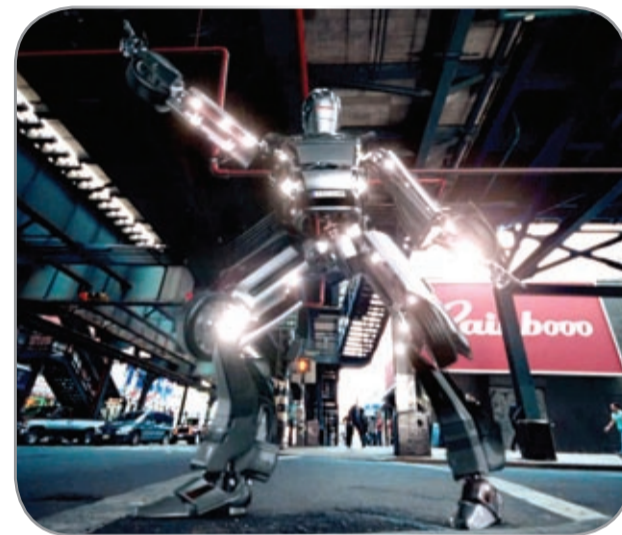
The interior is class leading and there are neat storage solutions all over the front and rear compartments. I especially liked the air conditioned cool box in the dash which kept my water cool on a long drive. Once inside the Picasso the sleek lines continue with a fantastic feature called interior mood lighting which bathes the interior in a warm glow. I was even more impressed with the panoramic windscreen and sunroof which made me feel more outside than inside in car. The 6 speed auto is great and the 2.0 HDI engine never felt as if it was even trying hard to waft you along with ease.



In Lounge specification you get what can only be described as aircraft seats and I don't mean those in economy! Each seat is covered in leather and has individual arm rests and height adjustable head rests with the driver's seat also having height and lumbar adjustments. As for safety with 7 airbags as standard one of which is a driver's knee airbag and ABS, electronic brakeforce distribution and ESP with traction control ASR you know you have added peace of mind.

Prices start from £13,995 and the range topping Exclusive being £22,395. The funkier new C4 robot is back on our tv screens with the talented android strutting his stuff on the streets

of Manhattan. This latest advert is the fourth to feature the dancing C4 robot, which has become an internet viral sensation since its first award-winning advert appeared in 2005.



KEEP YOUR TYRES PROPERLY INFLATED

Motorists continue to put their own lives, as well as those of passengers and other road users at risk by ignoring the dangers of incorrect tyre inflation. The warning has been issued by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation. The latest statistics released by the Department for Transport show that illegal, defective or under-inflated tyres were a contributory factor in the death of 43 motorists in 2007, and played a part in a further 984 accidents. New research by TyreSafe has highlighted the scale of the problem, with more than half of motorists surveyed admitting that they had not checked their tyre pressure in the last month, the maximum period recommended by TyreSafe between pressure checks.

"In 2007, nearly one life was lost every single week of the year as a result of a road traffic accident where illegal, defective or under-inflated tyres were a contributory factor," explains Rob Beddis, chairman, TyreSafe. "This tragic loss of life is unnecessary and could have been avoided by carrying out simple, regular checks on tyre pressure, tread depth and tyre condition. Under-inflated tyres can cause dramatic changes in the way a vehicle handles and corners, resulting in surprise and confusion for drivers which often results in accidents. Additionally, tyres wear out more quickly and fuel consumption increases adding further burden to motorists already struggling with high fuel prices."

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE; LEWIS HAMILTON?

Speeding motorists have plenty to fear if caught by the traffic police along with, so it seems, the cutting wit of the boys in blue. Inspector Mick Dunn at the Metropolitan Police said: "Drivers are already on edge when they've been pulled over, so an opening gambit helps break the ice and start a dialogue. If we don't have to issue tickets, we won't, but aggressive behaviour and an argumentative attitude will be dealt with accordingly."



Examples are far reaching and regularly feature humour. Drivers caught in the bus lane have been asked: "How much is it for a single to Piccadilly Circus?" Speeding and erratic drivers giving a positive response to the question: "Is this your vehicle?" can expect to hear ... "That surprises me considering that you're driving like you stole it." Tailgating drivers could be asked: "Can I assume you have Hollywood stunt brakes fitted to your car? Only I wondered how you were going to stop in six feet at 70mph without them."

But a perfect example of keeping a 30-year joke alive is evident in the use of an

opening question to excessive speedsters... "Who do you think you are; Lewis Hamilton?" Inspector Mick Dunn explained: "We're there to uphold the law and ensure the safety of others. Sometimes people forget that.

Above all, our traffic officers are good guys trying to do a tough job." Further examples of police one-liners from the survey included: "Congratulations sir, you've just achieved pole position." "Did you accidentally fill your petrol tank with nitrous oxide?" "Good evening Mrs Schumacher." "Are you on your way to a funeral? Because it'll be yours if you keep driving like that." "Just how big was the one beer you were drinking?"

Members of the Metropolitan Traffic Police division will be surrounded by some of the very fastest cars on the planet including the 254mph Koenigsegg CCXR Edition at MPH The Prestige and Performance Motor Show featuring Top Gear Live at London's Earls Court from 30 October-2 November.

Tickets are available online at www.mphshow.co.uk/info or by calling the ticket hotline on 0871 230 7150.