

## MOTORING MATTERS *by Anthony Goodwin*

### THE NEW BERLINGO MULTISPACE

Recently Taxi Globe took delivery of a Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi VTR to road test. This vehicle is the UK's most popular value MPV. Recently updated the new Multispace has some fantastic clever touches such as a dual function boot light torch and interior roof bars.

With a higher seat position you feel like you are driving a 4x4 with great all round visibility, thanks to a panoramic windscreen and wide rear windows. Four glass panels in the roof bath the interior with light and at night a window to the stars which passengers in the back will enjoy. As for the rear seats there are three individual seats which can be reclined and removed, also there are aircraft style trays on the two front seat backs for the rear passengers, giving both comfort and functionality.

Our test vehicle came with the optional modularity pack which meant we got the modutop roof inside the car, although the Berlingo already had more storage compartments than I could find things to put in them. The modutop consists of front and central overhead compartments and a dual opening boot mounted storage box which can be accessed on the move thanks to 2 sliding doors. This also includes a built in air freshener and 3 air vents linked to the front.

As with most other Citroen safety is a high priority - the Berlingo comes with a 4 star EuroNCAP rating. Standard safety features include ABS with EBD and EBA, three isofix anchor points and driver and passenger airbags. Optional extras available include Hill start assist which holds the wheels for just long enough for the driver to move their foot from brake to accelerator, Tyre pressure monitor and up to 6 airbags. The diesel engine that we road tested was quiet and nippy round town. It easily cruised on the motorway at 70, also the added cruise control helped with a couple of long journeys I



made during our test period. I have decided that cruise control is essential on the next car I buy for myself. The cruise control also had a speed limiter so you can set a maximum speed which is great for driving around town making it less likely to get those nasty speeding tickets, together with points!

The Berlingo recently won the MPV of the year in the 4x4 and MPV Drivers magazines 2009 awards. This magazine is the only specialized MPV magazine and it heaped praise on the Multispace's unbelievable load space, modular layout, refined styling, comfort and value for money. In the same awards Citroen also won Best concept car for the mesmerising Hypnos concept car.

Prices for the Berlingo Multispace start at a very reasonable £10,995 for the 1.6 16v petrol in VT spec going up to the range topping 1.6 HDi 110hp XTR at £14,625. The fuel consumption on our test vehicle was 49.6 combined which for a vehicle of its size was great. It is in band C for road fund licence which means £120 per year. Overall the New Citroen Multispace is great to drive and is fantastic value for money.



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