

## MOTORING MATTERS *by Anthony Goodwin*

### PEUGEOT'S BLUE LION BADGE SHOULD REALLY BE GREEN!

One in every six cars sold in 2008 with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions below 121g/km was a Peugeot! In total there are 36 vehicles within the Peugeot range that fall into the below 121g/km category. Most people think that to get a low CO<sub>2</sub> car you have to be driving around in a supermini but not these days. The 308 HDi 90 is a mid size family car with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 120g/km, this falls into band B emissions which means £35 per year road tax.

Just because it has low emissions this doesn't mean that you have to have basic interiors and less equipment, the 308 90Hdi comes in 4 models. All models come with Electric front windows, remote central deadlocking, 6 smart airbags and ABS with EBD and EDA. Our test model was the S so we got air conditioning, front fogs and body coloured door mirrors and handles. The interior of the 308 is spacious and has a luxury feel so you feel you are in larger more executive car. All the instruments are clear and easy to read. The screen in the middle of the car, which is also the stereo screen, can also show your fuel consumption, fuel levels and instant fuel consumption levels at the touch of a button. Great for those trying to get the best mpg from their vehicle.

Talking about MPG figures, Peugeot entered into the ALD Automotive TOTAL Excellium MPG Marathon 2008. This is a competition where cars are driving in real-world conditions



from Bristol to Maclesfield and back. The route takes in the Peak district and Wales, going up and down hill sometimes up to 1650 feet at times. All vehicles entered made increases to the fuel economy figure with two 308's increasing by 32%. By driving with consideration and anticipation, a huge reduction in the official combined mpg is possible, as shown by the results in this event.

For those with safety in mind the 308 has a 5 star Euro NCAP rating. Peugeot's SMART airbags inflate in relation to the force of the impact giving exactly the right level of protection. For those looking to have ESP fitted it comes as standard from the SE spec upwards, and is available as an option on all other specs. Prices for the 308 start from £12,995 for the 1.4 VTi Urban and the 308 GT175 THP coming in at £20,395. Our test model priced at £16,595 which includes optional

metallic paint at £400. All models come with a 3 year warranty, Peugeot assist for 12 months, which can be extended.

#### PEUGEOT 308 CC IS ALMOST HERE!

From the 1st June 2009 you will be able to get the all new 308 CC. The long awaited launch of this class leading coupe cabriolet is finally here. With 100 enhanced spec cars being available to order from May, these are the 308 CC GT100, 50 will be in Nera Black and 50 in Pearl White. Three trim levels are available, Sport, SE and GT. Engines are either 1.6 VTi 120, THP 150 or 140 Auto, there are also 3 diesels to choose from HDi 110FAP, 140FAP and 140FAP Auto. Prices start from £19,495 for the 1.6 VTi Sport, the range topping GT100 is £23,595. I am certainly looking forward to our test drive of the New 308 CC having loved the 307 CC.



### FLY THE FLAG

Patriotic motorists can now display national flags on their number plates after Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon secured a change in the law. Motorists in England, Scotland and Wales can display the Union flag, Cross of St George, Saltire or Red Dragon of Wales. Geoff Hoon said: "The display of our national flags is a healthy expression of the pride we have in our country. It is right that motorists are now able to celebrate this pride by displaying flags on their number plates and I look forward to seeing our national symbols on cars around the country."

The flags can be displayed on the left hand side of the number plate. Vehicle number plates must comply with the specifications contained in the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001. These Regulations also allow the voluntary display of the blue European Flag with "GB" within the circle of stars. This allows motorists to travel within the European Community without the need to display the conventional oval sticker to identify in which member state the vehicle is registered.

### IAM BACKS MOVE TO CRACK DOWN ON UNINSURED DRIVERS

With an estimated two million uninsured drivers in the UK, the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) is backing proposals for an instant fine for offenders.

Under new proposals from the Department for Transport, using the 2006 Road Safety Act, vehicles and motorists will have to be continuously insured, whether the vehicle is kept and used on a road or not. The DVLA will send reminder letters to motorists whose insurance is soon to expire. If they ignore this letter and don't renew their motor insurance, they will be issued with an automatic fine.

IAM chief examiner, Peter Rodger, said: "The proposal will help reduce the numbers of people who had genuinely forgotten their insurance was up for renewal. However, those who deliberately flout the law are unlikely to be phased by the new proposals as they will continue to find ways to work the system. It's worth remembering that a crash involving an uninsured driver is particularly fraught. A worst case scenario is when the uninsured driver will be in an unregistered vehicle, untaxed and without a current MOT – there are a host of road safety issues when some drivers choose to simply drop below the radar.

"These illegal motorists not only represent a threat to other road users, but also place a financial burden on the remaining 94 per cent of law abiding motorists."