

## MOTORING MATTERS by Anthony Goodwin

### WHERE IS THE ROBOT BUTTON?

I do love those Citroen adverts with the cars turning into robots, it reminds me of my childhood and Transformers! So when I recently got to try the face lifted C4 I did my best to find the robot button but alas I was unable to!

The new range benefits from greener engineering and better value for money. Citroen have also changed the trim levels so it's easier to understand, there are also some great special edition By Loeb coupes to reflect their world rally championship winning ways. The trim levels are VTR, VTR+ and Exclusive, we had one of the By Loeb special editions on trial. We had the 1.6i 16v THP 150hp, the most powerful engine available in the range, which has Co2 emissions of 164g/km, being Citroen there are some great diesel engines and the 1.6i HDi 90hp has CO2 emissions of just 115g/km. The THP, turbo High Pressure, engine brings turbo charging to the C4 range for the first time.

The changes to the model include a new interior that has a far more premium feel to the older model. All models come with multiple front, curtain and lateral airbags, ABS with electronic brake force distribution and emergency brake assist and cruise control with speed limiter. These have helped the new C4 gain a 5 star Euro NCap rating. You also get the fixed centred steering wheel, which I think is great, it makes the mounted displays and controls safer and easier to see. Another feature across the range is the inbuilt scented air freshener, another great idea it's located in the dash and means these no need for air fresheners cluttering the dash.



Citroën C4 Exclusive - Winner of small family car category at 2009 BIVSA Awards



So now for the exterior of the car, you have a choice of either the 3 door coupe or 5 door hatchback. We had the very sporty looking 3 door, although I think that both models look sporty. From the front boomerang headlights, more rounded bonnet and panoramic windscreen it has a funky and dynamic look. There are also a new range of alloy wheels to finish off the new look C4.

I do like the way the C4 drives; it is a well-balanced and perfectly poised car to enjoy, it is a quiet, smooth and comfortable drive in any conditions. You're never out of touch with the subtleties of the road – something that true driving pleasure demands, what it's all about. It's exhilarating and nippy, hugging the corners with confidence. Around town its 6 speed gearbox makes it really nippy and the fuel consumption on the motorways is helped by this too. Fuel economy was good too with a combined 40.9 mpg, with the diesel models coming in with a great 64.2 mpg.

For those who like a good deal, then Citroen will not disappoint, with up to £3500 scrappage allowance on selected models. There is also 0% interest over 3 years. All new cars come with a 3 year warranty and a 12 year anti corrosion warranty. Prices start at £10,995 for the VTR and the range topping exclusive comes in at £16,195.



Citroën C4 by LOEB Special Edition

For those who watch the telly you will have seen the adverts for Citroen's birthday, they are 90 years old! There are some special editions coming out to mark this milestone.

### 90 YEARS OF 'CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE' AT ACE CAFÉ

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary, Citroën UK has teamed up with the UK's Citroën car clubs to host a French-themed evening of celebrations at the famous Ace Cafe London on Saturday 3rd October. Citroën owners, collectors and the general public are all welcome to attend the festivities, and the first 300 people will take home a limited-edition commemorative plaque as a souvenir of the evening.

With nine decades of Citroën models expected to be on display, as well as rare memorabilia, prize competitions, special celebrity guests and live entertainment, the event promises to be a fun-filled evening for Citroën fans of all ages. A competition – hosted by special guest judge John Simister – will be held to award the best presented



car from each decade of Citroën's history, with exclusive prizes. The Discovery Channel's own 'Wheeler Dealer', Mike Brewer, will be Master of Ceremonies during the evening,

adding his unique blend of banter and fun to the proceedings.

The event kicks off at 4pm at Ace Cafe London, just off the North Circular road and is free to attend. The famous Ace Cafe London venue has a historical tie to Citroën – the site incorporated a Citroën dealership in the post-war years. Mark Wilshire, Managing Director of Ace Cafe London said: "We are delighted to welcome Citroën for this special 90th Anniversary event. They have chosen a classic venue for their memorable occasion."

### A MINOR MIRACLE?

The scrappage scheme may be successful, but for some the sting in the tail is that the old cars have to be destroyed. Occasionally a car is put forward that even the most hardened trader can't bear to see go to the crusher. A 1958 Morris Minor is just such a car; traded in by an enthusiastic buyer who used scrappage to get a discount of more than £6,000 on a Hyundai Coupe it became clear to the dealer that the Minor was far too good to go to the crusher – even if its value does not match the £6,000 given for it in exchange for the Coupe. With 36,494 miles on the clock, the black two-door Minor is described as being in 'museum-quality' condition by one independent expert.

So the Gatwick Hyundai and the Authorised Treatment Facility, G.W & G Bridges, where the scrappage deal cars are crushed, got together and decided to try and save the car from being cubed. The car cannot ever be put back on the road legally or exported as the DVLA have already issued a certificate of destruction. But it could be used as a static display in a museum, for example.

The companies are inviting organisations who can put the car to good use to contact them with suggestions. The best and most worthy 'proposal' will get to use the car for free. Proposals and questions can be sent to morris.minor@hyundai-car.co.uk before the end of October.

