

## MOTORING MATTERS by Anthony Goodwin

### ANYONE FOR GOLF?

The new 6th generation Golf has arrived! I have been lucky to drive not only the GTI and GTD but also the new 1.4 TSI which has the same power as a 2.0, but with less emissions and better fuel economy. You can see that VW have taken some of the exterior design elements from the fantastic Scirocco. Inside you can also see VW have paid attention to detail to the point they redesigned the door and window seals to reduce wind noise.



You may not know this, but the new Golf is actually slightly shorter than its predecessor and is also lower. But it is wider - which means you get a sportier look more like a coupe. Although VW have made some changes to the size you can still comfortably fit 5 adults inside in more comfort than the Mark V Golf. The front of the car has the new VW family look, this is to be rolled out on new models from now on. VW have taken details to the max, from the headlights with VW badges on the dip beam unit to grooves within the wing mirrors that channel rain water and assure that the mirrors remain clean regardless of conditions.

Once inside there are tactile plastics and chrome

accents on all models. It's the little things that make a difference; for example, VW have moved the window switches further forward in the drivers door, making them easier to find and comfortable to use. Gone are the blue backlit dials making way for clean white dials that are illuminated regardless of whether the car's exterior lights are on. They have even replaced some noise dampening with lighter versions to help with weight. Looking for storage space? Well there are plenty of stowage areas, they have even made the driver's door bin to accommodate a drink can, as well as a high visibility vest, which is compulsory in some countries. As standard the golf comes with a semi automatic climate control this is called Climatic, it maintains the desired cabin temperature automatically whatever the temperature is outside.

I enjoyed the drive of the Golf, the 1.4 TSI engine that we had on trial was great to respond and I can say that the claims it's like driving a 2.0 are very true. Fuel consumption is great with combined economy of 45.6 mpg. The model we had on road test was had a 6 speed manual gearbox which is also being available as a 7 speed DSG, Co2 emissions are 144 so that means road fund licence £125 per year. Lucky for me, the test car also had ACC, adaptive Chassis Control, there are three settings normal, sport and comfort. In Sports Mode the steering assistance is reduced along with a stiffer suspension and sharpened throttle response which is great for winding A and B roads. Comfort is great for motorways where the damping is softened and steering assistance is increased.



Standard equipment includes ABS, ESP and ASR also you get EDL electronic Differential Lock. There are also a total of 7 airbags, including a driver's knee airbag. Safety is a priority these days and the Golf has a 5 star Euro NCAP result. Also the engines are Euro 5 compliant. I do like the Park Assist, great for those tricky parallel parks no one likes. All you have to do is drive past the space at below 18 mph either on the left or right and the car works out when an appropriate space is found and notifies the driver. Then place it into reverse and the car steers into the space for you, you still have control of the throttle and brakes.

Prices start from £13,585 on the road for the 1.4 3 door in S trim level with the GTI coming in at £24,305. Our test model was £20,695 with all the optional extras we had on it.

### GET AN EYEFUL OF THE EIFFEL WITH THE NEW C3

What do the Eiffel Tower and Citroën have in common? Well, apart from both being French, they share significant anniversaries this year and they are looking to renew a historic connection. From 1925 to 1934 Citroën lit up the famous Parisian tower - literally. The car company's name was emblazoned down the side of the landmark. The Eiffel Tower is 120 years old this year while Citroën celebrates its 90th anniversary. Citroën PR director Jean Baptiste Thomas says: "It's apparently no longer possible to use the Eiffel Tower as a giant advertising hoarding. But the new C3 is, in fact the only car from which you can view the entire Eiffel Tower from the front seat thanks to its extraordinary panoramic windscreen."

The Zenith Windscreen is one of, if not the, largest windscreen ever seen in a Citroën. It stretches back almost a metre and a half from the bonnet and takes in around one third of the roof, an exceptional technological feat which gives front-seat passengers an upward field of vision 80° - so you can see the top of the Eiffel tower even if you are parked underneath it.



### 5 O PROVES A WINNER

A mystery buyer bought the registration 5 O for a staggering £87,853.75 in the first sale of the final day of DVLA Personalised Registrations' autumn auction.

The sum takes the total amount spent on the O-series - 1 O, 2 O, 3 O and 4 O - released to mark DVLA Personalised Registrations' 20th anniversary, to a whopping £566,344, with all the money raised going to the Treasury. Damian Lawson, DVLA Personalised Registrations' Marketing Manager, said "Again, we have been blown away by the level of interest in an O-registration. The decision to release them to the public has certainly proved worth while in terms of the revenue raised for the nation."

The final three-day auction 2009 commencing on December 2, at Tankersley Manor Hotel, Barnsley, Yorkshire, will feature 6 O. Prior to 5 O, the registration 161 LL, sold for £24,805, held the "title" of being the most expensive plate bought during the event held at Dormy House Hotel in the Cotswolds.

