May 2024 Update

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'Elm Tree Cars' @ Facebook

DON'T PANIC THIS MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - WE WILL BUY YOUR OLD CAR!

MERCEDES-BENZ

C-CLASS AMG

Just £17,499

VOLKSWAGEN

T-ROC TDI

JUST £16,399

BMW

2 SERIES SPORT

Just £14,999

Alfa Romeo's 'Milano' Mayhem

Alfa Romeo's debut EV was called the 'Milano', until Italian law created mayhem! The law prevents non-Italian goods from using Italian sounding names, to preserve authenticity. Since the EV is being assembled in Poland the carmaker had to rebranded. "Changing the name to Junior reflects our history and keeps the peace" said the CEO (despite sounding a little naff). And as they say, 'there is no such thing as bad publicity' - so many people took a look online that their website crashed for several hours!

Mayday or Magic For Lotus?

Mayday might normally signal distress but for Lotus it's the start of something exciting! Despite a headline-grabbing **loss of £593 million last year**, the carmaker reached an all-time high selling almost **7000 vehicles, 63% of which were BEV models.** It's nice to see a British producer doing so well.

No Signal For Help At EV Charging Points!

A recent exposé by the RAC reveals a glaring glitch in Britain's EV infrastructure—**two-thirds of Type-2 chargers are in mobile dead zones**. Even in London it's 61.3%. This isn't just an inconvenience; poor signal makes charger activation hit-or-miss which could leave EV drivers stranded. The RAC has flagged this oversight to the government and suggested a lifeline in the form of Wi-Fi hotspots or satellite connections .. all of which sounds a bit expensive and a bit late!!

New Drivers MAY Face Tighter Restrictions..

The AA has been championing further restrictions on new driver freedoms. Novice drivers already face a ban if they reach six points in their first two years but there is talk of: *Preventing them from carrying passengers under the age of 25 *Keeping a log book *Having to display 'New Driver' plates *Or Mandating aircraft style black box recorders (in my opinion the only sensible solution), these are already commonly required by insurance companies for new drivers.

With figures showing that young drivers between 17 & 24 are four times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than those over 25, something does clearly have to be done. The good news is that deaths and serious injuries involving at least one young driver have decreased by around 60%

since 2004. Interestingly, the most common contributory factor in accidents involving young drivers was that the ‘driver failed to look properly’. This situation was expertly summed up by one of our customers when recounting the details of an accident his son had, “he was going round a long bend too fast and simply run out of…….EXPERIENCE!”.

A Welcome Break From Distress For JLR

After a string of bad headlines (some in this newsletter), Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) is now celebrating a hefty **22% surge in global sales!** The UK topped sales improvements for the group, up a massive 32% year-on year, with North America not far behind at 21%. The Range Rover was the most popular model with sales up 22%, and the **Jaguar brand was up an astonishing 39%!**
Meanwhile sales in China and Europe declined, 9% and 2% respectively. Reliability and parts supply remain dreadful.

My hairdresser just spent £1 to put air in his tyres at the local petrol station. It used to cost 20p.. Suppose that's inflation for you!

See You Next Month For Summer! ☀

** BBC.CO.UK *ECONOMIST.COM *LOTUSCARS.COM *RAC.CO.UK*

**JAGUARLANDROVER.COM *SMMT.CO.UK *ALFAROMEO.CO.UK *THEAA.COM*

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