

WHEELS ON DEALS

IP THE third-generation Toyota Prius hybrid power car goes on sale in the UK this summer, and adopts a larger, 1.8-litre petrol engine mated to an electric motor. It will be marginally longer than the current model, with the roof profile changed to improve rear seat headroom. There's more boot space, too. Full specification details and prices will be revealed at the Geneva, Switzerland, Motor Show in March.

IP CITROËN'S C1 city car now gets a smarter look for 2009 – the front end is restyled, there's new body colours and trims, plus lower CO2 emissions and improved fuel economy. The latest C1, available with either a 62.8mpg 1.0-litre petrol or 68.9mpg 1.4-litre diesel engine, is in UK showrooms now. The specifications have been cut to just two – VT and VTR.

IP CAR supermarket giant Motorpoint is seeing more and more people from Ireland buying its cars – due to the weakness of Britain's pound. The continuing fall in the value of sterling against the euro has resulted in an influx of calls from customers in Eire.

IP A NEW pay-as-you-drive car insurance has just been launched in the UK, called Coverbox. It uses GPS

technology to monitor distance covered and time of day or night a vehicle is in use, and charges according to mileage covered in off-peak (daytime), peak (rush-hour) or super-peak (11pm-5am) periods. And there's a plus – Coverbox can track and locate a car if it is stolen. Log on to: www.coverbox.co.uk to learn more or get a selection of quotes.

IP THE new Mercedes E-Class goes on sale in the UK from mid-June with the claim of the line-up's nine available petrol and diesel engines consuming up to 23 per cent less fuel than before. More details will be released closer to launch.

IP GOWRINGS Mobility, a leading UK provider of accessible transport, now has the country's first dedicated Blue Badge sat-nav system on sale. Designed to support thousands of disabled British drivers, the BB Nav, from Navevo, covers 150 major UK cities and towns, with detailed information for Blue Badge holders including on-street disabled parking bays, accessible car parks, local council concessions and accessible toilets. The BB Nav costs £195, plus £9.50 postage. Call: 0845 608 8020; visit: www.gowringsmobility.co.uk.

