

# MOTORING SNIPPETS

● 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.

● 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.

● One of the most entertaining reads of 2009 is out on January 29th – Robbie Coltrane's paperback of popular TV show B-Road Britain, which saw Robbie take the slow road from London to Glasgow in a classic Carmen red Jaguar XK150 S. The £7.99 Corgi publication packs in a lot more than the comedian/actor's cult programme. To order a copy, telephone (01624) 677237.

● Check with the nearest Seat dealer for details of attractive finance offers on many of the firm's models.

The deals run alongside the Seat Revolution campaign, which sees specification-adjusted savings of up to £5,110 against competitor cars, and up to £2,000 off list prices.

The dealers have full details of the promotion, which includes 0 per cent hire purchase offers and low-rate contract-purchase terms.

● 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.

● 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](http://www.coverbox.co.uk) to learn more or get a selection of quotes.

● The new Mercedes E-Class goes on sale in the UK from mid-June 2009, 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, and prices, will be released closer to the launch date.

