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David Miles' Motoring News Round-up No. 10

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Rush Hour Traffic on the M6 Motorway, Walsall, UK.

MILESTONE NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED - EDITION 10...

...By David Miles (Miles Better News Agency).

Despite the roads-of-life starting to reopen with shops, businesses, car manufacturers and dealerships getting the wheels of business moving again, I'm still sifting through automotive



news you might have missed until my first new model road test car arrives at the end of this week - hopefully.

But for the foreseeable future the availability of new model test cars will be very limited due to logistical constraints and much smaller fleets of cars available to the media as PR budgets have been severely cut and jobs in the industry unfortunately lost.

Here are a few brief news items I discovered this week...

SEAT teases us with latest Ateca SUV model



SEAT's UK bound Ateca SUV teaser shot.



The mid-size SUV, SEAT's Ateca is being significantly refreshed adding further appeal, technology and an enhanced and efficient engine line-up.

The design evolution we are told has resulted in a new aesthetic both inside the cabin and the exterior design. In addition there are a number of new connectivity and safety technologies which have been applied to other recent SEAT models.

No prices, no specification or engine options have been released just a teaser image and news that the new Ateca will be unveiled to the UK public on Monday 15 June. We do know however that since its introduction in 2016, the Ateca has been a sales success with more than 300,000 units sold globally and more than 35,000 in the UK. Current Ateca prices range from around £23k to £37k with a wide range of engines; 1.0/1.5/2.0 litre TSI petrol and 1.6/2.0 litre TDI diesels.

Innovative Father's Day automotive gift



[Innovative Car Facts Disc – ideal for Father’s Day.](#)

With Father’s Day (Sunday 21 June) just around the corner the digital start-up business Buzz2Get has created the ideal present for car enthusiasts – the Car Facts Disc.

The Car Facts Disc could be the ideal gift for classic and sports car enthusiast owners. It allows them to provide detailed information on their pride and joy to other car buffs.

Designed to mimic the look of the UK’s old paper car tax disc, which was replaced by an online method of paying Vehicle Excise Duty in 2014, the Car Facts Disc system lets car owners easily and quickly upload chosen details about their vehicle’s history and restoration journey along with images, video and even hire rates and availability for film or wedding use. It can also optionally show if the car is for sale.



Passersby spotting the disc in the car's windscreen then simply use their smartphone camera to scan a unique BuzzCode on the disc that links to the uploaded information on the Car Facts Disc portal, with the information then being displayed instantly on the phone screen.



Father's Day Car Facts Disc in use.

For owners, the Car Facts Disc also delivers a means for them to document their car's story in an easily accessible and editable digital format without going to the trouble and expense of setting up and hosting bespoke websites or blog pages.

The software behind the Car Facts Disc integrates seamlessly with the vast majority of modern smartphones, and there are no ongoing hosting fees or hidden charges. Priced from



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just £17, the Car Facts Disc is available via www.factsdisc.com.

Latest Ford Fiesta range includes electrified hybrid options



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In addition to a number of spec changes throughout the 2020 Fiesta hatchback range, Ford has added 48-volt EcoBoost Hybrid options which deliver a 5% fuel efficiency improvement and these are priced from £19,860.

Available in 125 hp and 155 hp power outputs, Fiesta EcoBoost Hybrid models feature a belt-driven integrated starter/generator (BISG) in place of the standard alternator, enabling recovery and storage of energy usually lost during braking and coasting to charge a 48-volt lithium-ion air-cooled battery pack.



The BISG also acts as a motor, integrating with the engine and using the stored energy to provide torque assistance during normal driving and acceleration, as well as running the vehicle's electrical ancillaries.

Both Fiesta EcoBoost Hybrid and traditional petrol powertrains - available with 95 hp and 125 hp power outputs - now utilise the latest generation of the multi-award-winning 1.0 litre EcoBoost engine featuring cylinder deactivation.

In addition the Fiesta's 125 hp 1.0 litre EcoBoost petrol engine can now also be specified with a new seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission for optimised refinement and fuel efficiency improvements of up to 15% cent compared to the out-going 100 hp 1.0 litre EcoBoost six-speed automatic configuration, despite offering 25% more power. An 85 hp 1.5 litre TDCi diesel engine is also offered in the updated range for high-mileage drivers.

The revised Ford Fiesta range includes Trend, Titanium and Titanium X spec levels, the SUV-inspired Fiesta Active Edition and Active X Edition crossover models, the sports Fiesta ST-Line and ST-Line X Editions and high spec Vignale Edition in three- and five-door body styles depending on variant. Fiesta Hatchback prices range from £16,640 for the Fiesta 3-door Trend 75 hp model to the ST Ford Performance 200 hp version at £26,825. Fiesta Active Edition versions range from £20,480 for the 95 hp model to £23,935 for the 155 hp auto top spec version. There is also a new 48-volt Hybrid option for the Fiesta Van range using the 1.0 litre EcoBoost 125 hp engine but with no prices made public yet.



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Hybrid power as well included in the Ford Fiesta van range.

Ford sold nearly 78,000 Fiestas in UK in 2019, a third of the 227,000 sold across Europe.

New Fiat 500 City Car now all electric



[Fiat's new 500 Electric Hatchback ready to order.](#)

There are rumours that the British Government is thinking about a £6,000 Scrappage Scheme offer to customers trading in their petrol and diesel cars for zero emission electric cars. Don't hold your breath!

So the arrival of the new generation Fiat 500 La Prima all-electric city car hatchback, which is a 500 unit special launch edition, is timely. It costs from £26,995 including the Governments Plug-in Grant and it comes with an easyWallbox home charging point. Less costly versions will follow as will a 500 Convertible all-electric range, but no prices as yet.

The driving range between full charge-ups is up to 199 miles, the 87 kW electric motors



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provides a top speed of 93 mph and accelerates from zero to 62 mph in 9 seconds. Using a public fast-charging point the battery can be charged to 80% of its capacity in just 35 minutes.



Front interior of new Fiat 500e electric models.



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Fiat's new all electric 500 City Car Convertible.

Survey of supercar ownership in the UK



Porsche 911 Carrera, the brand is voted most favourite and popular supercar.

Grange Vehicles, established in 1956, are purveyors of luxury premium brand new and used high performance cars. They have just conducted a Freedom of Information request to the DVLA on supercar ownership to find out which luxury brands are the most popular with men and women across the country.

They looked at popular brands including Aston Martin, Bentley, Bugatti, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, McLaren, and Porsche. The data has also been broken down by post-code, documenting supercar ownership in each major city in the UK.



Key news from the survey showed Porsche to be the most popular supercar with women, - Porsche is the UK's favourite supercar, Bentley pips Aston Martin to the post as the most popular British owned supercar brand in the UK, McLaren has the largest gender split with 93.16% of the owners being men and just 3.44% women, Birmingham has the largest number of supercar owners outside of London followed by Belfast and Bristol.



[Porsche Boxster, a more affordable model in the brand's supercar line-up.](#)

Campervan demand on the up



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[Wellhouse Leisure popular Ford Custom camper van.](#)

How or where we might take our holidays this year are still to be defined in whatever lockdown rules are applied in future. However it appears that UK families are not happy to wait to see what evolves. A record number of seven customers in one day gave Wellhouse Leisure their highest ever daily sales total, even with social distancing in place.

And a camper van could be an ideal for social distancing holidays. What do you get and how much? The Wellhouse Leisure campervans include a pop-up roof, kitchen with sink and



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cooker, stylish Italian-designed furniture and a crash-tested rear seat that quickly converts to a comfortable double bed with prices ranging from around £20,000 for a campervan conversion of a used vehicle like the Toyota Alphard, to up to approximately £55,000 for a new Ford Transit Custom-based model.

The company is also building a new 16,000 sq ft factory in Baugh Green, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The new development will include production facilities, a new showroom, parts warehouse, offices and a larger forecourt to display new and used vehicles.

AutoTrader, the UK's largest digital market place, supports the caravanning holiday trend with a report that show views of on-line of caravan adverts was up by 18% week on week and motorhomes/campervans by 17%. In a survey 40% of respondents said they are planning a staycation and caravan holiday numbers will match stays in hotels this year.



[AutoTrader says UK caravan staycation holidays will be popular this year.](#)

Audi's DTM challenge is coming to an end



[Audi back on track for their final season in DTM racing.](#)

Audi is preparing to rejoin the postponed 2020 DTM season in August for what will be its final year in the series. The DTM, which ran from 1984 to 1996 before resuming under a new format in 2000, has been an integral part of Audi's story since the company first participated in the series in 1990. 'Audi has shaped the DTM and the DTM has shaped Audi,' acknowledges Markus Duesmann, Chairman of the Board of Management of AUDI AG.

To date, Audi has won 23 DTM championship titles, including 11 driver titles. As the series has travelled not just through Germany but across Europe and as far afield as Moscow and Shanghai, Audi has taken 114 victories, 345 podiums, 106 pole positions and 112 fastest laps to date. The 2019 season was Audi's most successful ever and, hopefully, when the



2020 series gets underway, they hope there will be more victories to celebrate.

The Audi RS 5 during 2019 had more than 610 hp from the DTM's 2.0 litre TFSI petrol direct-fuel-injection engine, a figure that's even more impressive when you consider that DTM cars run on regular, 102 octane forecourt fuel. For 2020, the organisers have cut the fuel flow rate to the engine from 95 to 90 kg per hour. Even so, the Audi power unit still musters more than 650 Nm (479 lb.ft) of torque and approximately 580 hp. An additional 60 hp is available via a push-to-pass system, which drivers can use 24 times per race. They can also activate the car's DRS (Drag Reduction System) to enhance top speed and promote overtaking. Weighing just 986 kg (2,174 lb) the RS 5 Turbo DTM can accelerate to 62 mph in a mere 2.8 seconds and reach a top speed of approximately 186 mph.

Audi UK Appoints the Special One





José Mourinho, Head Coach of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and new Audi Ambassador, with his Audi Q8.

Away from the race circuits Audi in the UK was more famous for its sponsorship of high profile equestrian tournaments, namely Polo, which of course attracted an impressive array of celebrities and of course Royalty. Some of whom still use Audi cars.

Now the brand has changed tack and supports 'footie'. Their new brand ambassador appointment is a Special One, no less than José Mourinho.

Audi is already the official car partner of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club so the club's head coach has just taken delivery of a huge Audi Q8 coupé styled SUV.

Another blow to UK motorsport events this year



The British round of the WRC known as Wales Rally GB has been cancelled this year.

Cancelled for the first time in over 50 years, Britain's round of the FIA World Rally Championship – the 2020 Wales Rally GB due to be held 29 October to 1 November – has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This year's event would have been the 76th staging of the historic event, first run as Rally GB in 1932. The only other cancellations of this event were in WW2, the Suez Crisis with petrol rationing in 1957 and the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 1967.

The event normally attracts close to 100,000 spectators from around the world and generates over £9m of economical benefit for the region and has raised more than £250,000 for local charities.

Mind how you go – you know it makes sense



[More back to work – more traffic – fewer driving skills evident so far.](#)

Data just in from a study by Possible, the climate charity, found that Britain's roads could be swamped by a million extra cars during rush hour periods. This is brought about because of limits placed on the commuters using public transport to comply with social distancing measures. Trains and buses can carry only between 10 and 20% of normal passenger loads. The study also found that around 14.5 million people across England and Wales will be driving to work.

An alert from the automotive insurance industry says that many motorists are not yet up to speed with their driving skills following the lockdown period. Anticipation, awareness and judging speeds of approaching vehicles, especially at cross roads and also on motorways



when awareness joining lanes of faster moving traffic and lane-hogging, all need attention.

Kim adds: "I should like to put on record my grateful thanks to my colleague David for his series of 'News Round-up' features, provided so diligently and in timely manner over the last 10 weeks. His ability to dig out fascinating and useful information, and his legendary attention to detail, have been most welcome during the strange times in which we have been living in recent months, and have helped keep Wheels-Alive readers informed about what's been happening on the motoring scene. Thank you David; your efforts have been appreciated."