

Young at

MotorMadness



Heart

Ian Lamming rediscovers his youth in Seat's amazing hatchback

THE youth of today? They have no idea about the excitement of motoring of yesteryear.

When I was a lad, virtually every journey was made in the knowledge that you might not get back. Tyres would blow, so would the engines and the quality of the driving was so bad a good night out would have you kicking the windows out to escape from an upturned car. Grace of God we survived really.

One regular malfunction was plugs going off. Suddenly four purring cylinders would drop to an off-beat three and if you were really unlucky, two, before grinding to a halt.

Now, believe it or not, modern engines are designed to do this – drop to two, not grind to a halt.

Seat gains the family TSI motor. I say motor but more accurate would be phenomenon.

Accelerate and four cylinders hurl 150PS at the road in fine fashion. This is one mother of a mover, especially as the Ibiza features a light-weight body. Zoom, it's gone.

When your required cruising speed has been achieved and it goes into bowling along mode the dash tells you that the 1.4 litre motor is running on two cylinders.

You wouldn't really notice, not like in the

olden days, but the thing that catches your eye is the instant readout on the fuel consumption trip computer which leaps from a creditable 60+ to a staggering 88+.

It is amazing technology and something that could have been designed for a Yorkshireman – amazing performance with stupendous economy, now that's grand.

That technology continues its way inside the Ibiza FR which is fitted with some pretty natty infotainment/Bluetooth gubbins. It's all very easy to use, not the distraction that it can be in some cars, which is great given the FR is such a good drive.

Steering, ride and handling are impeccable and the clutch and six-speed gearbox light and slick. The whole package is fun and dynamic; Ibiza is a car for those who appreciate the drive.

Interior trim is well made, clean and clutter free. The seats are really comfy and the spec sheet is long and useful.

The youth of today, or those who are young at heart, are going to love Ibiza FR which encapsulates the excitement of old fashioned motoring without the prospect of impending injury or death.

Fact File

- Seat Ibiza FR 1.4 EcoTST 150PS
- Engine: 1.4
- Power: 150PS
- 0-62mph: 7.6 secs
- Top speed: 137mph
- Combined MPG: 58.9
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 112