

# Fun and Funky

Ian Lamming drives the latest SUV from Suzuki, the Ignis

**F**UNKY, definitely funky; Suzuki's new Ignis is so different it could have stood the test of a new name.

Old sterling Ignis was a vehicle of a particular demographic, perhaps more senior and motability-friendly. The new one has a much greater appeal.

It will still attract the senior market but it will also charm a much younger audience thanks to a raft of all the latest gizmos.

It is described as an SUV and actually looks like one in miniature with modern but squared off lines, a high stance and chunky feel.

Driver and passengers sit high, which is great for vision, even better for hips.

SZ5 comes with the Allgrip, the on-demand 4x4 transmission, which in these days of icecap-melting random weather systems

comes in useful all year round.

The 1.2 litre is conventional in that it carries four cylinders but unconventional in having soft-hybrid support. That means that while there is no electric motor, the alternator can be reversed to add a bit of extra electrical oomph to the internal combustion unit – very clever that.

On the road it does feel peppy and able to accelerate, climb and cruise with a decent enough amount of go. It is also remarkably quiet on the motorway at 70mph given the chunky lines could have upset airflow but don't seem to.

Chunky also describes the approach to internal fixtures and fittings. The door liner features an off-road feeling grab handle, the touch screen dashboard is plonked on rather

than in the fascia and the clocks are atypical and attractive. The heater controls also have a pleasing bolt on aesthetic.

Specification on SZ5 is high with satnav living on the touch screen unit, trip computer and sliding rear seat. There are hill hold and hill descent controls

Ignis scores highly in the pricing structure too undercutting the opposition while excelling in the areas of build and overall quality.

In a market that is fiercely competitive Ignis does stand out from the crowd for lots of reasons.

It is clever, well put together and I would be as happy to recommend it to my 'mother-in-law' as I would my daughter, both of who would appreciate its funky charms.

## Fact File

- Suzuki Ignis
- Engine: 1.2
- Power: 90PS
- 0-62mph: 11.4secs
- Top speed: 106mph
- Combined MPG: 65.7
- Transmission: Five-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 97

