

Standing the test



of time

Ian Lamming spends time with the new incarnation of the Nissan Juke

Fact File

Nissan Juke
Engine: 1.5 diesel
Power: 110BHP
0-62mph: 11.2
Top speed: 109
Combined miles per gallon: 70.6
Transmission: six speed manual
CO2 g/km: 104

TIME flies, especially as you get older.

It seems like only yesterday that Nissan took over Pinewood Studios to launch the radical Juke to the world.

Back then the chippies were all walking into a huge Bond studio, timber over their shoulders, to build the set for the latest 007 spectacular and if we had been a day earlier we would have got to meet Harry Potter actress Emma Watson.

Here we are, years on, and Juke is in its second incarnation, though you would be pushed to notice as it whizzes by.

Nothing wrong with that; Juke II the sequel, tweaks and revises rather than redesigns, in the main, to address issues the original threw up.

A Qashqai-esque grille and new boomerang lights separate the new from the old and the interior keeps the funky feel that Juke lovers have come to appreciate.

What is better, much, much better, is the boot, always a bugbear in the first model. Dog owners in particular found it a bit of a squash and a squeeze for pooch unless the rear seats were dropped. But the new Juke is much improved offering 40 per cent more space – which can be hidden

under a false floor if you like – or offer accommodation to the St Bernard.

New mouldings front and back and the option of whacky coloured inserts on bodywork and wheels complete the picture of the refreshed crossover.

What remains the same is driver's appeal.

The diesel is pokey and frugal, the ride and handling controlled and fun. Juke is great in town with myriad parking aids including reverse beepers and cameras. Up the dales it makes the most of its torquy nature and agile manner. On the motorway it breezes along in a relaxed way.

There are eco/sports driving modes, satnav and trip computer, Bluetooth and climate control, so Juke wants for nothing.

Juke remains proof that medium sized hatches don't have to be mainstream and boring; they can be different, radical, funky – and popular to young and old as time goes by.