

Shop front

Clive White finds some useful kit for caravanners



Storm in

FOR ANYONE seeking outdoor leisure clothing, Millets (along with associated Blacks leisure shops) is arguably one of the best known and most accessible retailers. Its Peter Storm items are good value, like the Women's Highlite jacket (RRP £49.99), a waterproof, breathable polyester shell with polyester mesh lining, fully taped seams, rollaway peaked hood and toggle adjusters. The machine-washable jacket has a full-length zip with stormflap, elasticated cuffs with hook and loop adjusters, two zipped hand pockets, two side pockets and an internal security pocket. See millets.co.uk or call 0800 389 5861.



ON AIR

DESPITE INTERNET radio developments, there's still something appealing about pulling in a long-distance station over the airwaves. Eton's Satellit 750 FM/LW/MW/SW/Airband/Single Side Band PLL Synthesized desktop radio is a quality fully-featured receiver with full HF coverage and VHF civil airband. It looks the part, too. Carry handles, top-mounted directional antenna (for lower wavebands), direct frequency-entry keypad (no complicated menus), clear LCD display with switchable backlight, bass/treble/squelch/RF gain controls, external aerial sockets and a host of features found on far more expensive 'professional' receivers make the 750's £299 price tag something of a bargain. Mains or four 'D' size battery powered. If you fancy trying this compelling hobby, see nevada-radio.co.uk for full details or call 02392 313090.

CAN FANS

FOR MUSIC lovers, good headphones offer aural treats without disturbing other people – handy in caravans. Ultrasone HFI's surround sound technology gives the impression of listening to speakers, while S-Logic design reduces sound-pressure levels by 3-4db, reducing the risk of hearing damage, and special metal shielding reduces magnetic radiation by up to 98%. Available from around £79.99 at amazon.co.uk; or see ultrasone.com for details or call Audio Ltd on 01494 511711.



New generation

HONDA LAUNCHED its EU30i generator last autumn, offering increased output with portability, ease of use and noise efficiency. It delivers 3kVA maximum and 2.6kVA continuous power. EU30i is mounted on two wheels with a foldaway multi-position handle giving a 'tow weight' of just 8kgf, plus fixed handles enable two people to load and unload (weight 35kg). Honda says great attention has been paid to noise reduction and fuel efficiency. Parallel operation, high-quality output, integrated controls/indicators and 12V-DC output are also features of the EU30i. RRP £2600, see honda.co.uk or call 0845 200 8000.



DOG IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING?

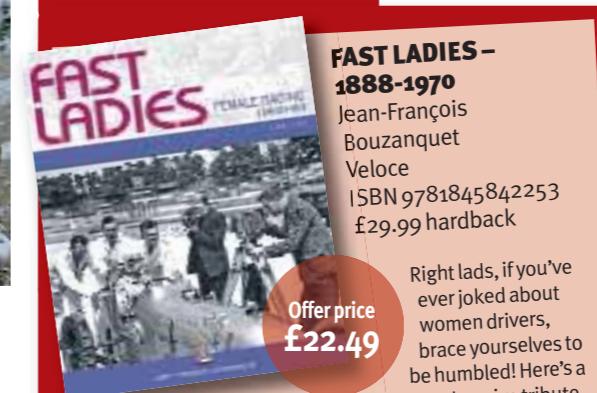
MANS' BEST friend surely deserves the best when it comes to keeping warm and dry. Equafleece produces a quality range of imaginative doggie fashions which provide weather protection and improved visibility. Made from waterproof, wicking fabrics used in technical mountaineering clothing, styles include canine T-shirts, polo necks, coats, jumpers, shorts and more, priced from £13 depending on style and size. Quality high-visibility horse exercise sheets, quarter sheets and saddle cloths are available as well as fleeces and hi-viz jackets for people. (Pictured is Pippa modelling her jumper.) See equafleece.co.uk or call 0845 123 5296 (free UK delivery).



FILLING A VACUUM

I LIKE products that have stood the test of time, which partly accounts for the appeal of Stanley vacuum flasks. Invented by William Stanley in 1913 the flasks have a reassuring timeless quality. They are solid, beautifully finished and feel like they'll easily exceed their 'Built for Life' slogan, with a 25-year European guarantee and spare parts back up. There's a wide range from the 0.23-litre Classic Pocket Flask (around £15) to Classic food flasks, the Outdoor range insulated mugs and the latest modern Nineteen13 models. From leisure and homeware stores or see stanley-pmi.com.

Read all about it



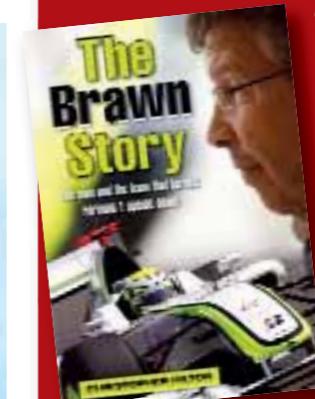
FAST LADIES - 1888-1970
Jean-François Bouzanquet
Veloce
ISBN 9781845842253
£29.99 hardback

Right lads, if you've ever joked about women drivers, brace yourselves to be humbled! Here's a comprehensive tribute to ladies who have dared to enter the male-dominated world of motor sport and compete on equal terms.

It was back in 1888 that Bertha Benz (no, really) made a 111-mile journey credited as the first solo motor-vehicle drive by a woman. She was the wife of Karl Benz, whose business partner, Emil Jellinek, had a daughter called Mercedes. So ladies have been quite influential right from the birth of motoring.

But the proper first lady of motor racing was Camille du Gast who achieved 33rd place (out of 122 entrants) in the 1901 Paris-Berlin race, driving an immense Panhard-Levassor. She was also into parachuting, fencing and powerboat racing, helped destitute women and became the first president of the Society for the Protection of Animals – quite a lady.

These women start a lavishly-illustrated book, the detailed captions accompanying concise but compelling portraits of more than 40 fast ladies. Joke about lady drivers? Not me. CW



THE BRAUN STORY
Christopher Hilton
Haynes Publishing
ISBN 978184259373
£18.99 hardback

The 2009 season was one of the most dramatic in the history of Formula 1 as the unheralded Brawn GP team took the motor sport world by storm.

Of course it was also the year in which British driver Jenson Button became world champion – but this book is not about him; it is primarily about his team principal, Ross Brawn, the man who saved what was then the Honda team from extinction, rebranded it and took it to the Constructors' Championship at his first attempt.

This book by Christopher Hilton is filled with first-hand accounts from key team members and offers a fascinating insight into the man affectionately known as 'the Big Bear', as well as the inner workings of the world of F1. Featuring a 16-page central colour photo section as well as some interesting statistics at the back, this is a great gift for any motor racing aficionado. JT

Offer price £14.24 + postage

DAYS OUT GUIDE 2010

AA Publishing
ISBN 9780749563363
£12.99 paperback

"What are we going to do today" is an often-heard question in the touring caravan, and this guide book from the AA is designed to provide an easy answer.

Sub-divided into England, the Channel Islands, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and split further into individual counties, it is an extremely user-friendly book.

A short description accompanies each attraction listing, as well as contact details, fees, opening times, disabled access information and a grid reference relating to handy maps at the back of the book.

For those on a budget, clear signposting of free-to-enter locations is particularly useful, as are the 10 rip-out vouchers entitling users to two-for-the-price-of-one discounts at 300 highlighted attractions.

This is a great guide, filled to bursting with things to do – but incredibly you still feel it is only scratching the surface of what's on offer in our magnificent islands. JT

THE ULTIMATE TRIVIAL PURSUIT QUESTION & ANSWER BOOK

Sterling
ISBN 9781402770654
£10.99 paperback

We all enjoy a good game of Trivial Pursuit. Chasing round a board answering questions on ancient civilizations, unpronounceable islands in the Baltic and the name of Lucy Robinson's dog in Neighbours in a futile chase to fill your 'wagon wheel' with 'cheeses' (or wedges, or pie slices) has been an international obsession since the game was first released back in 1982. Now, though, there's an easier way to play thanks to this brilliant book.

Perfect for rainy days in the caravan or an impromptu quiz at the pub, *The Ultimate Trivial Pursuit Question & Answer Book* contains 2500 questions from the past 25 years, split into sections on the traditional subjects of Geography, Entertainment, History, Arts & Literature, Science & Nature and Sports & Leisure. The answers to each set of six questions are listed on the following page, meaning you can even enjoy a bit of solo play without cheating! Lucy's dog was called Bouncer by the way. JT

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