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WHY DID THE CHICKEN MAKE THE ROAD CROSS?

When pleading for reason ahead of the opening of Prestwich's new KFC drive-thru, I often felt like a lunatic sticking up for nuclear warhead that had appeared on the horizon.

"It's not even arrived yet," I said. "Why don't we let it actually get here and give it a chance before we criticise it."

But many were already convinced; this was the beginning of the end. There were all kinds of fears. Traffic congestion on Bury New Rd. Heaps of chicken bones stacked along the streets like miniature tributes to elephant graveyards. The mountains of litter that would surely hit the pavements as poultry-fattened idlers waddled their way down Bury New Rd, tossing empty popcorn chicken boxes over their shoulders. And there was a touch of snobbery too; a new KFC signalled the death of Prestwich's hopes of becoming Chorlton MkII.

But really, it's just a KFC. A nice one. Currently

as clean a dentist's surgery and staffed by fresh-faced teenagers who are, at least for now, happy to help. Of course this will change as the novelty of employment wears thin and they rightly begin to despise their jobs but a couple of weeks in, it's a pleasant model of efficiency. I ordered a takeout there last week and within 30 seconds of paying I had my food. Even considering that this was a meal served in a bucket, it's still an admirable feat.

The littermageddon hasn't occurred yet either. Most people seem to use the drive-thru, taking their rubbish with them. As a committed litter-picker I've seen the odd bit of KFC branding but nowhere near what I see for Greggs or Tesco. Right now, many of the anticipated issues seem unfounded.

Of course there are problems. Kingswood Rd is now treated to the near constant reek of chicken. It's a nice smell for, say, 20 seconds but there are clearly times when people don't want to smell fried birds and that's most of the time. There's also the issue with the drive-thru, which is prone to backing up and already causes the occasional snarl-up on Bury New Rd during peak demand for hot wings.

But the fact is, KFC serves a purpose, which is to provide quick, slightly shame-inducing food, ideally for the drunk and hungover. And on the morning after the night before, even the most committed middle-class locals will be forced to admit that.



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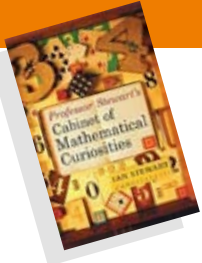
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Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities - Ian Stewart

Professor Ian Stewart is a mathematician and writes about maths, but please don't stop reading here:

this is definitely not the same maths you learned at school!

In the Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities Professor Stewart manages the subtle balancing act of neither making his work too highbrow, nor too lowbrow. Those with a mathematical background will find much to enjoy but so will those whose abiding memory of school maths is counting the minutes until the end-of-lesson bell. Yes he writes about complicated things but in his hands it all becomes understandable and even fun.

Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities contains some 200 or so entries which cover all manner of mathematical conundrums with a bit of mathematical history thrown in. There are games, puzzles, card tricks and projects. Many of the entries will have you saying, *'Oh yes I've heard of that...so that's what it's all about'*.

There are entries on the four-colour theorem, fractals, Fermat's last theorem, magic squares, degrees of separation, space-filling curves, Fibonacci numbers, the Moebius band, chaos theory and much more..

The book is designed to be read, and shared, in small bite-sized chunks. For a non-mathematician reading it all in one sitting might prove a bit relentless. It is the sharing aspect though, which makes this irresistible. You'll just have to try out the number games and puzzles on members of your family and you won't be able to stop yourself from sharing interesting facts such as, why the M25 is shorter anti

-clockwise than clockwise, and by how much.

Harvesting Dreams: Hundertwasser for Kids - Barbara Stieff

You may never have heard of Friedensreich Hundertwasser but he was an eccentric artist, humanitarian, environmentalist and architect. He dedicated his life to the beautification of the world in which we live. In this colourful, quirky book Barbara Stieff introduces children to Hundertwasser's free-thinking, inspirational approach to art and the environment.

There is something about Hundertwasser's vibrant, exciting work which appeals to children and adults alike. Most children enjoy colouring and love bright colours but often become bogged down with making things look 'right' rather than developing their own creative style. Likewise adults don't always fully appreciate children's imaginative artwork and gently admonish that cows are not pink with yellow stripes...when of course there's no good reason why they shouldn't be any colour at all in a painting.

Stieff's engaging and slightly off-the-wall style suits the book. She spent many years as an art educator at ZOOM, a children's museum in Vienna and it shows. The book is packed with fun projects and suggestions for stretching children's imaginations in an artistic but also in a more general way. It is also lavishly illustrated with Hundertwasser's work which makes it a beautiful decorative item in its own right; a fact of which Hundertwasser would certainly have approved.



By Tilly Anderson

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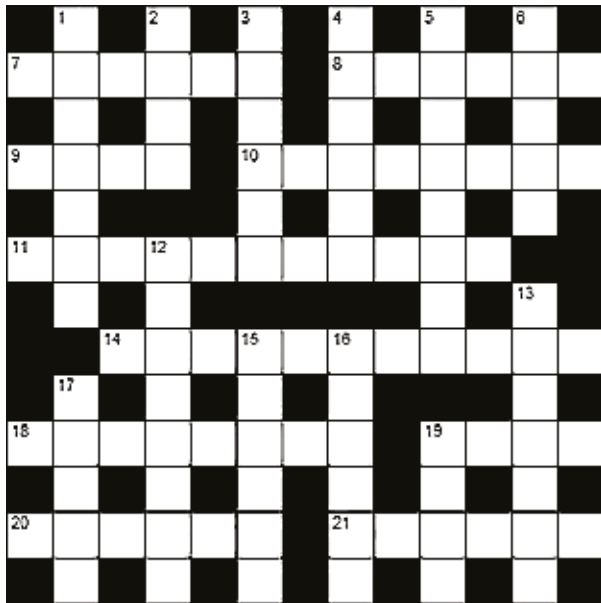


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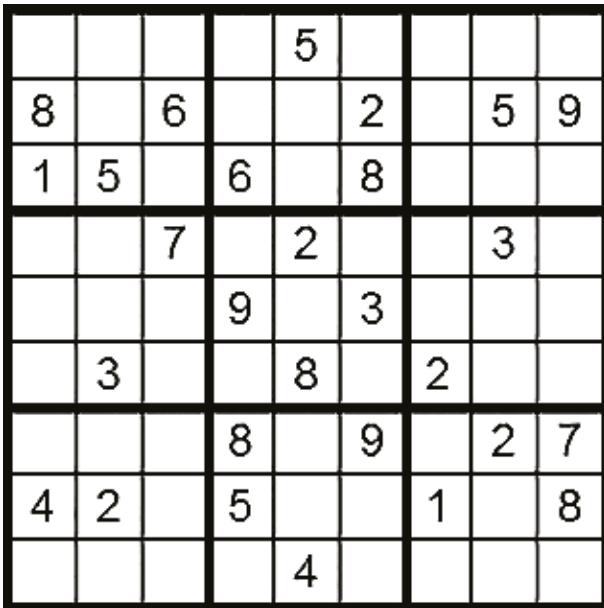


Across

- 7 Graceful, drooping tree (6)
- 8 _____ Wisdom (actor) (6)
- 9 Giant, usually evil (4)
- 10 They pull Santa's sleigh! (8)
- 11 British seaside town (11)
- 14 Used to disguise or conceal (5,6)
- 18 Broadcast, relay (8)
- 19 Ruler of Mt. Olympus (4)
- 20 Apparition, hallucination (6)
- 21 Finally (6)

Down

- 1 Royal realm or province (7)
- 2 Abscond, scarper (4)
- 3 Deviate, sidestep (6)
- 4 Intense blue-purple (6)
- 5 Animal that catches and eats others (8)
- 6 Blanched, washed-out (5)
- 12 Fanciful, impractical (8)
- 13 Mexican alcoholic drink (7)
- 15 Japanese garment (6)
- 16 Appease, sooth (6)
- 17 Plait, weave (5)
- 19 Vivacity, zeal (4)



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page 44**

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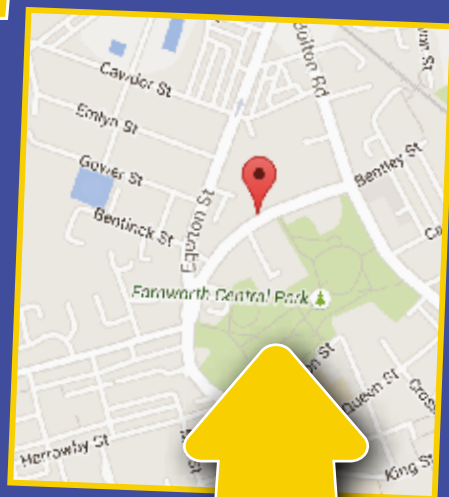
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Pumpkin Soup

Serves 6

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 25 minutes

(If roasting pumpkin add 20-30 minutes)

Ingredients

Soup

4 tbsp olive oil

2 onions, finely chopped

1kg / 2lb 3oz pumpkins or squash, peeled, deseeded and chopped into chunks

½ -1 tsp ground cumin

700ml / 24 fl oz vegetable stock or chicken stock

142ml / 5fl oz pot double cream

Salt and pepper

Garnish

75g / 3oz lardons

Chopped chilli (optional)

Tiny sage leaves (optional)

Method

Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large saucepan, then gently fry the finely chopped onions for 5 mins, until soft but not coloured. Add the peeled, deseeded and chopped pumpkin or squash to the pan with the ground cumin, then carry on cooking for 8-10 mins, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden.

Pour the vegetable stock into the pan, then season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins until the squash is very soft. Pour the pot of double cream into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra-velvety consistency you can now push the soup through a fine sieve into another

pan.

While the soup is cooking heat the remaining 2 tbsp olive oil in a frying pan, then fry the lardons until deep golden brown. Add some chopped chilli and a few small sage leaves to taste, then cook for a few mins more until they too are tinged with colour. Reheat the soup if needed, season to taste, then serve scattered with the lardon garnish.

Note: Although this recipe will work with Halloween pumpkins they tend to be bred for size rather than flavour. If you want to use a Halloween pumpkin I'd recommend drizzling the pumpkin pieces with olive oil first, mixing them with the cumin and roasting them in the oven on Gas 6 / 200C for 20-30 minutes. Then follow the recipe as before. Roasting brings out the maximum flavour.





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PUMPKINS AT THE READY..

There are big tubs of pumpkins outside the supermarkets, along with costumes, fake blood and multi-packs of sweets in the aisles. Halloween is almost upon us. But why do we celebrate it, when did trick or treating start, and what's the point of carving pumpkins?

As many people know, Halloween is short for All Hallows' Eve. All Hallows' Day (also known as All Saints' Day) was an important occasion in the early Christian calendar and is still recognised by many Christians today. It is a national holiday in some predominately Catholic countries and is seen as a time to recognise and remember saints.

It is believed that many Halloween traditions pre-date Christianity, and actually date back to the ancient Gaelic festival Samhain, which was held to mark the transition from harvest time to winter. Samhain was seen to be a time when the boundaries between worlds, particularly those of the living and the dead, were loosened, enabling spirits to cross through into our world. Bonfires were lit to cleanse the air and offer protection. People would often dress up as evil spirits in order to appease the 'real' spirits into not harming them, their families or their livestock. The 'evil witch' may have its roots in the Pagan goddess, The Crone, who was celebrated at Samhain for her wisdom and nurture of the Earth.

In the Middle Ages, poor people would visit homes, offering to pray for the dead on All Soul's Day (November 2nd), in exchange for food. This is likely where trick or treating started. Trick or treating may also be related to 'guising', a tradition where children would dress up and perform a song, dance, or other entertainment in exchange for a sweet treat.

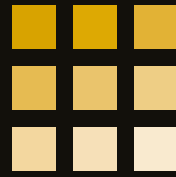
Pumpkin carving is believed to date back to the 1800s. Originally, turnips were carved and a candle placed inside. It appears that these lanterns served numerous purposes: to frighten spirits away; to guide travellers home safely; and simply to light the way in a time before street lights were commonplace. Pumpkins started to replace turnips when Irish immigrants took their Halloween traditions with them to America. Pumpkins were easier to acquire there than turnips, and soon became more popular as they are usually larger and much easier to carve! In recent years, pumpkin carving has become something of an art form, with elaborate designs often replacing simple grotesque faces.

Black cats, spiders and bats are common Halloween symbols, and likely relate to the idea of a witch's 'familiar' – an animal that was said to be a demon in disguise.

Halloween is now celebrated in numerous countries across the globe, although it is particularly popular in the United States. Samhain itself is also still celebrated by pagans and wiccans around the world.



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FIREWORKS

Fireworks have been around for as long as we can remember and date back to 200BC. Chinese people discovered that by putting green bamboo stalks over fire, the wood expanded and created a bang and sparks. This wood dried to create a flaky powder, hence, fireworks were born. These scared off enemies and the Chinese thought they also warded off evil spirits. They made war weaponry by filling the stalks with the gunpowder, and shot these as arrows.

Marco Polo is credited with introducing fireworks to Europe but it is thought throughout the Middle East they were used even earlier, as Arabs used gunpowder obtained through the silk trade during the Crusades.

Italian pyrotechnicians created the aerial shell, where the fireworks are launched upwards to create a majestic array of colours. But how do we get these vibrant colours? Well, metal salts are put into 'stars' (small clay lumps), which when lit create the sound and visual light effects which delight adults and children alike.

Fireworks are used for all manner of celebrations today – and whether it's U.S. Independence Day in America, Diwali in November, or the Don Valley Grass Bowl in Sheffield in Yorkshire, family and friends gather to enjoy the marvellous visual delights and sounds of an invention which began by just heating a piece of wood!



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Terrific Tulips

If I could grow only one type of flower then it would have to be the tulip. Harbingers of warmer days, the choice available is mind-blowing. There are frilly parrot tulips bearing fringed petals, sturdy fat-flowered types and graceful plants with lily-like blooms.

They are also tremendously accommodating. You can plant them much later than daffodils and narcissi because they don't need to start producing roots so early. In fact you can plant them from now until Christmas!

My mother uses them as annuals and rips them up after flowering but I can't bear to do that so I plant them deeply and leave them in the garden where they return happily year on year.

If you want to use them as disposable bedding you only need to plant them about 10cm / 4 inches deep. If, like me, you treat them as old friends then plant them 23cm / 9 inches deep and they won't disappoint you.

Pot Luck

Tulips are wonderful in containers. As a guide, a 25-30cm / 10-12 inch diameter pot will accommodate a dozen

bulbs. For a larger 47.5cm / 19inch pot use 16 -18 bulbs.

Cover the base with at least 5cm / 2inches of drainage material and 12cm / 5 inches of soil-less multi-purpose compost. Lay the bulbs in an inner and outer circle making sure that no bulb touches either another, or the outside of the pot.

Fill the pot with compost to within 2.5cm / 1 inch of the rim. I finish pots off with strips of daisies or anemones planted around the edge in colours which complement the tulips. Water everything in but shelter the pot from heavy rain so it doesn't become waterlogged and never water in frosty weather. I use water-retaining granules mixed in with the compost. These help to maintain soil moisture throughout the dormant season. Feed the daisies or anemones throughout their flowering season in the Autumn and the Spring and you should be rewarded with a beautiful display sometime in April or May.

I love to plant containers of tulips by my front door. I have a red door so choose something like Tulipa 'Apeldoorn' in yellow and red varieties underplanted with red daisies. If you have a blue or green door you might like to try Tulipa 'Angelique' (pale pink) underplanted with pink anemones. Or how about Tulipa 'Bleu Aimable' a brilliant purple/blue variety?

By Rachel Leverton





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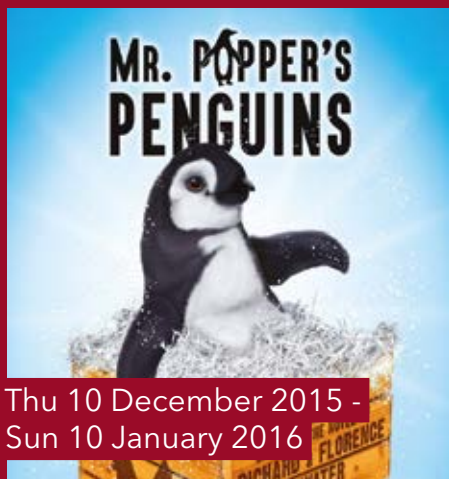


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Prestwich Heys FC**Heys head into the autumn unbeaten so far this season and competing on three fronts.**

In the Manchester League Premier Division, Heys ended September joint top of the table.

They shared that berth with Royton Town and AFC Monton, with all three locked on 17 points, with goals difference putting Heys into second position.

However, Jon Lyons' team have played a game less than their rivals.

The month opened with a thrilling 6-4 win over local rivals Walshaw at Adie Moran Park. Heys trailed 2-0 after 20 minutes before reducing the arrears on the half hour with a goal from Max White.

Remarkably, by half time, Heys led 4-2 with Jon Lyons, Jamie Baguley and Lee Bruce on the mark.

Greg Wills scored twice in the second half to give Heys a 6-2 lead before a spirited late rally by Walshaw made for a tense finish.

Heys ended the month away at another of the early pacesetters in Dukinfield Town, a side who had won every home game thus far.

However, a superb display saw Heys totally dominate as they ran out 3-0 winners. Paul Tierney, George Powell and Bruce were on the mark.

In between Heys were involved in cup football.

In the Lancashire Shield a 2-1 win over league rivals Hindsford saw Heys progress into the second round where they were due to travel to Euxton Villa.

Meanwhile, a 2-0 victory at Uppermill booked a last eight spot in the Leagues' Gilgryst Cup.

Heys Reserves are also unbeaten and top their division.

Having won the League last season, they look set to challenge for honours again with sixteen points being taken from their first six games as well as progress in the Open Trophy where East Manchester were beaten 5-0.

A 5-0 win over Dukinfield Reserves at the end of the month completed a whole year without a league defeat and saw them lead the table by a point.

October fixtures (all 2pm) are:

10th - 1st v Old Alts (home)

Res v East Manchester (away)

17th - 1st v AFC Monton (away)

Res v AFC Monton (home)

24th - 1st v Wythenshawe Amateurs (home)

Res v Wythenshawe Amateurs (away)

31st - 1st v Uppermill (home)

Res v Hollinwood (away)

Heys will be launching an online fund raising campaign in October called "Grow Your Tenner". Every £10 pledged by supporters will be matched by the scheme sponsors which include business and Government bodies. The money raised will be targeted at raising funding for floodlights to be installed at Adie Moran Park.

Full details and all other Heys news can be found on www.prestwiches.com

Prestwich Cricket Club

Prestwich Cricket Club are joining the Greater Manchester Cricket League (GMCL) in 2016 and with this in mind they are looking to strengthen their playing squad across their three senior teams.

The 1st XI will be playing in the GMCL Premier Division and the Seconds and Thirds will also be part of this new and very competitive pyramid structure.

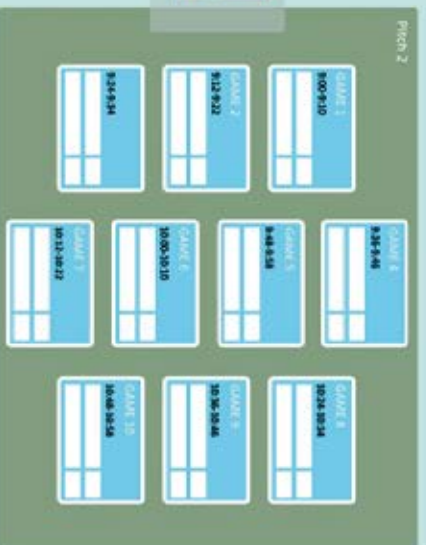
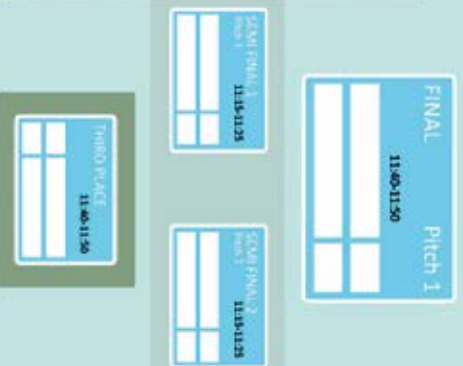
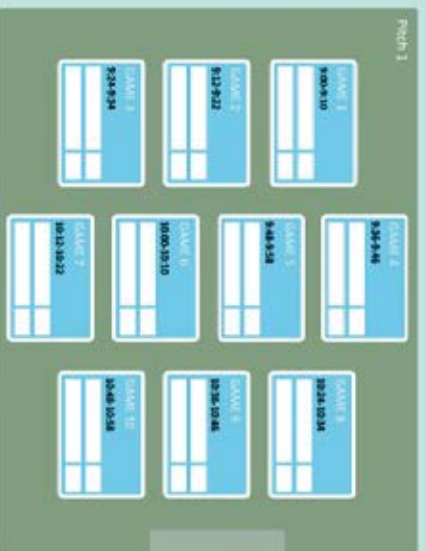
The Junior section is a key part of their strategy/structure and will maintain coaching options for all and will start again in April 2016.

The club will also be running some Winter Coaching sessions which will be announced shortly.

If you are interested please email info@prestwichsport.com or see the website for more information at www.prestwichsport.com.

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2						
3						
4						
5						

Group 2

Pos	Team	W	D	L	GD	PTS
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2						
3						
4						
5						



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I do like a pick up truck, there's just something so manly about them, never having had a 'proper' job that would require me to own one, test driving them is a rare treat for me.

Today is double exciting for me as it's also the first time I've driven a Chinese manufactured vehicle. Great Wall are the first mass market manufacturer to sell directly in the UK.

All the motoring experts say that over the next 10 years Chinese cars will take a huge market share in the UK, I'm sure you've all seen the Top Gear episode when they travel to China to see the progress the Chinese have made over the last 10 or so years.

So anyway, let's get on with testing the pick up.

Exterior Styling

It's a pick up, it looks like pretty much every pick up out there, the only issue you will find here is people asking you what make it is because they don't recognise the badges.

It's certainly not an ugly thing but it's not stunning either, you certainly won't stand out in a crowd but maybe that's what they were aiming for.



Interior

It's all in here, part leather trim, heated seats, bluetooth, air con etc, but it all feels a bit cheap. the plastics certainly aren't up to European standards.

The switch gear is solid and functional although the buttons all look about 10 years old. The bluetooth is built in to an aftermarket radio so isn't as good as proper factory bluetooth and the call quality I'm told by people I tried to call is rubbish.

So if you take calls when driving for your business you will want to spend on having a proper phone kit installed.

It all feels quite solid in here, just cheap. But the truck is cheap, you're only looking at buying one because it's cheap. So I'm sure anyone who buys one won't mind the quality that much. Plus it'll all be covered in mud after a weeks anyway!

Driving

The engine is actually not bad, a 2.0 litre turbo diesel, but the turbo is a clever little variable one so you get nice torque, 310Nm of it in fact. Great wall claim it will do 34mpg, I got close to these numbers with a mixture of driving, of course I had no weight in the back.

The steering is light with no feel, which in a pick up doesn't matter one little bit. The brakes seem to work nicely, although again I had no weight on the back so they weren't properly tested I guess.

The clutch is light and you won't struggle to find the gear you need, it all feels like a pick up should, no nasty surprises here.

It's also not that loud on the move either, there a fair big of wind noise around the cabin at motorway speeds and a fair bit of tyre noise but nothing that was really a problem.

Cornering defiantly isn't it's forte, lots of understeer and leaning going on, yes, yes I know that's not the point of the vehicle but one day a corner will sneak up on you that you wasn't expecting and you'll have to throw it round, when that day does come make sure you have spare underwear in the glovebox as you'll need it.

Should I Buy A Great Wall Steed?

So should you buy a Great Wall Steed instead of one of the main rivals like the Nissan Navara or the Mitsubishi range?

A lot of me says yes, it's cheaper which matters when you're in business, you also get a 6 year warranty. So if your only motivation when buying your new pick up is cost, then yes try a Steed. But you'll have to run it until it dies because the second hand market is full of bargain Navara's and Mitsubishi's so you'll be selling it on very, very cheaply.



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