

Seeing Christine's article in the July Family News about her compost maker, which is eco-friendly, motivated me to tell you about my eco-friendly car!

I'd been thinking of changing my car, simply for practical reasons. My old-age shrinkage was making it difficult to see out of my old car, and also its boot lifted up very high, was difficult to reach and was very heavy to pull down. It seemed sensible to consider an electric car but during the pandemic every site I googled only told me how wonderful that particular make was. I wanted to be able to compare one make with another - come back the old motor show at Olympia! I did a fair bit of research considering hybrid cars vs electric only - and came to the conclusion hybrid would not make that much difference, either to the climate or my purse!

Thankfully Alison Marshall told me of a garage which stocks many different makes of electric cars. I made an appointment to visit, intending just to compare different cars and continue to think about it, being better informed. I explained on the phone that I needed to be able to sit in the car to try out the height of the driver's seat - and also that I needed a boot big enough for a large dog but with a lid I could manage. The salesman immediately won me over by suggesting I take the dog with me and she could jump in and out of any boot I considered!

To cut a long story short - I came home having bought a car and negotiated a very good exchange on my old car, with the salesman agreeing to deliver my new car the next day and take my old one away.

My electric car is not only eco-friendly but also Margaret-friendly! I can charge it up overnight at home - that's infinitely cheaper than filling up with petrol. When I need them, there is an increasing supply of quick charge sites being installed around the country - and my intelligent car can tell where they are. I don't have to pay any road tax, my insurance is significantly cheaper, and if I want to go into the London congestion charge area I don't have to pay.

There are a couple of things I have to take more care about - pedestrians, cyclists and people on the new motorised scooters - many of whom speed along in a world of their own with earplugs in - they can't hear me coming, so I have to use the car horn more than I might have done. The silence of the car also presents a problem when negotiating the church park when everybody is chatting! Apart from that I'm delighted to be being eco-friendly.

*Margaret Howard*