



MINOR MESSAGE no. 16.

Notes for a lay-up, by Steve Chater

If you are unable to give your car an occasional outing during lockdown, here are some hints. They are applicable to your "modern" too!

1. If the car has not had a recent service, do it before lay-up, most importantly change engine oil and filter.
2. Ensure the car is clean inside and out.
3. Inflate tyres to the recommended pressure or slightly higher.
4. Fully charge the battery, or connect to a battery charger/conditioner, or remove battery from car and place on charge.
5. If the vehicle has an alarm or clock or any other device not switched off, disconnect the battery. If alarm / immobiliser needs to be active obviously it will not be possible to disconnect.
6. If possible leave a window slightly open to allow ventilation of the interior.
7. If possible raise car on axle stands to remove weight from tyres - high enough to allow wheels to be rotated.
8. Once car is safely on axle stands release handbrake.
9. Unless the car is in a very dusty environment I personally would not recommend using a car cover, though I know many people may disagree.
10. Regularly push brake and clutch pedal to prevent any seizures.
11. If the vehicle has air conditioning, start engine and switch a/c on. This allows refrigerant to circulate system and helps keep the seals in good order.
12. Depending on where vehicle is stored, check regularly for rodent activity!



Steve with his Prison Van.

If the vehicle is stored outdoors:

1. After cleaning it, apply a good quality wax polish to the bodywork.
2. Apply some form of protective treatment to tyres and if possible place covers over the wheels. This prevents UV from sunlight damaging the rubber and can help prevent brake discs rusting.
3. I personally would not recommend using a car cover, although if window seals are not too good a roof-to-waistline cover can be used to prevent water ingress. Remove cover regularly to ensure car body is clean.
4. Regularly lift and clean windscreen wiper blades.
5. If possible and secure, open windows to allow interior of car to be aired.